



Sweden
Sverige



UN-LGA JOINT PROGRAM

Joint Regional Program for the Implementation of Cross-Border Cooperation Activities in the Liptako-Gourma Region

**Achievement Report
2019 - 2021**

CONTENTS

04

Project Overview

06

Executive Summary

12

Project Implementation Context

16

Programme Geographical Intervention Zones

18

Programme Rationale and Implementation Approach

22

Achievement and Results Reporting 2018/19 - 2021

48

Assessing the Collective Impact of the Joint Programme

50

Course Correction to Strengthen the Joint Programme Implementation

53

Programme Governance and Management

58

Lessons Learned

59

Prioritised actions for 2022

60

Voices from Liptako Gourma

Copyright © 2022 United Nations Development Programme

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

United Nations Development Programme
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa
Point E, Complexe Citamil, Immeuble E
Dakar - Senegal

Project Overview

Project name	Programme Régional Conjoint d'Appui à la mise en œuvre des Activités de Coopération Transfrontalière dans la région du Liptako-Gourma
Implementing agencies	ALG, UNECA, UNWOMEN, UNESCO, ILO, UNODC, UNICEF, OHCHR, & UNDP
Convening agency	UNDP
Target area	Liptako-Gourma region of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger (detailed map of project sites below)
Project period	November 2019 to October 2022
Budget	8,300,000 USD (out of proposed budget of 12M USD for the whole programme)
Outcome Area 1	Promotion of institutional and legal frameworks for improved cross border cooperation is ensured through the strengthening of regional, national, and local mechanisms
	Output 1: The capacity of the ALG is strengthened to coordinate and promote an evidence-based approach to policy, including information sharing - the institution has the skills to carry out its core functions - in line with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako-Gourma region. Lead - ECA, UNDP
Outcome Area 2	Prevention and resolution of conflict, violent extremism, and crime; promotion of access to justice, human rights, and the rule of law
	Output 2: Justice systems and defense mechanisms in the Liptako-Gourma region are harmonized, operational, and strengthened. Cross-border communities have access to a criminal justice system and assistance mechanisms are available for victims. Lead - OHCHR, UNWOMEN, UNDP
	Output 3: Capacities of local authorities and communities are strengthened in reconciliation and social cohesion, conflict prevention and management, and prevention of radicalization in the cross-border areas of Liptako-Gourma. Lead - UNWOMEN, UNESCO, UNODC, UNDP
Outcome Area 3	Resilience of vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, to various socio-economic shocks is improved through vocational employment, increased access to basic social services and income generating activities
	Output 4: The communities, in particularly women and youth, are better equipped through training vocational training for employment; and have increased access to basic social services and income generating opportunities. Lead - UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO
	Output 5: Technical and operational capacities of education departments in the Liptako-Gourma areas are improved and adapted to crisis situations and risk management. Lead - UNESCO, UNICEF
Outcome Area 4	Resilience to climate change, scarcity reduction and natural resource management strengthened
	Output 6: Local authorities and communities receive logistical support and training to cope with environmental shocks and climate change. Lead - UNESCO, UNDP





Executive Summary

Joint Programme (JP) to Support the Implementation of Cross-Border Cooperation Activities in the Liptako Gourma Region was inspired by United Nations Delivery as One reform and was conceived as a proof of concept by United Nations (UN) agencies working across humanitarian-development nexus in close collaboration with the Integrated Development Authority of Liptako Gourma Member States (ALG) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The overall vision was to address the root causes as well as strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and hard to reach border land communities of the Liptako Gourma region facing extreme poverty through ongoing security and climatic variability, which continue to affect peace and prosperity in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. The joint programme was launched in October 2018 and currently implemented by eight UN agencies notably UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and ECA under the leadership of the ALG. For effectiveness, the implementation is enhanced by strategic staffing support from UNV. The JP commenced with an initial funding of \$8.3mIn through the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) structure; with UNDP acting as the coordinating agent and secretariat.

The implementation of the JP is focused on the geographical areas of the Liptako Gourma region. The Liptako Gourma region straddles the common borders of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The Liptako Gourma region is a vast territory covering an area of 370,000 square kilometers with an estimated population of over 18 million inhabitants, 80% of which comprise young women and men living in hard-to-reach rural communities. Thus, the development context of the region is defined by high rates of illiteracy and limited access to basic social services. Gender inequalities deepened by strong traditional socio-cultural norms are an additional burden for women and young girls in the region; this has created conditions for stark exclusion women in development decisions affecting their lives as well as extreme cases of sexually and gender-based violence. Additionally, fragility and lack of governance structures have created a conducive environment for the infiltration of organized crimes and on-going violent extremism attacks (inspired by Al-Qaeda and other jihadist networks). Multiple attacks by these jihadist networks and non-state actors continue to cause significant damage to community social cohesion and threatened livelihoods of communities by limiting trade and

movements across the borders which hitherto was the basis of prosperity in the region.

The JP aimed to tackle the root causes of the multidimensional development and human security challenges described above. And aimed to do so by gradually strengthening the resilience of the border communities and re-establishment of community security to push against as well as ameliorate the current state of insecurity threats perpetuated by non-state actors on these border communities. Thus, the JP was premised on the theory of change (TOC) that by addressing the fundamental causes of poverty, inequality, and conflicts in the border regions through empowering women and youth, increasing access to basic services, livelihoods, and job creation; one can influence the conflict dynamics, stabilize communities, improve social cohesion, prevent crisis, and make strides towards sustainable development, which will manifest in a peaceful and a prosperous region.

To do this effectively the JP aligned its results in support of the priorities of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and its Sahel Support Plan (UNSP) which is at the center of the international response by development actors in the Sahel region. Strategically, the JP aligns with the Swedish Strategy for Development in the Sahel to amplify its results within the development community. Importantly, the JP aligns its concrete actions with the strategic priorities of the ALG at the local development level for effectiveness.

In its approach, the success of implementation drew from the definition of joint collective outcomes at the beginning, joint analysis, joint planning, concentrating efforts at delineated geographical intervention zones and joint ownership of results by community beneficiaries, local authority, ALG and the UN implementing agencies. This approach has the potential to benefit from the implementation of humanitarian-development nexus in the field, which can be leveraged across border communities for contributing towards achieving regional development impacts. This approach was adopted with the view to optimise the collective impacts of UN agencies at work at the local level.

So far, the application of the joint collective approach has been more successful in Mali circle than in Burkina and Niger. In Mali notably the geographical zones of Mopti, Koro and Douentza implementing UN agencies are able to coordinate their actions in the field through a systematic process of joint analysis, planning and allocation of division of labour to enforce synergies and coherence of results. The success of this is arguably based

on the establishment of an active coordination structure headed by a Nexus field manager and respective Mayoral offices. This underpinned by a consolidated action plan developed with the local authorities which are followed consistently; and enhanced through security access to the field with the help of MINUSMA forces. Thus, the fundamental difference to the success of Mali's joint approach is the existences of a well-functioning coordination structure supported by the local authorities and enhanced by the consistent application of action plans developed on the basis of division of labor. This lesson will be applied to Burkina and Niger to strengthen the JP collective approaches in those circles of the Liptako Gourma region'

Overall, the JP is ambitious. It is the first of its kind implemented under the auspices of the UNISS with eight (8) UN agencies, UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and ECA working regionally across three countries-Burkina, Mali and Niger. Also, given the number of agencies involved, the coordination challenges of the UN agencies are daunting. And so, it is for ALG for the overall realisation of the ultimate success of the JP. Nonetheless, the UN agencies in collaboration with local partners and authorities are assiduously implementing concrete actions on the field albeit under difficult security operating environments.

Targeted Results and Outcomes

The results detailed in this achievement report 2019-2021 are set out under the results and outcomes below:

UNISS/UNSP Priority # 1: "Promotion of cross-border cooperation for stability & development
Joint Programme Outcome Area 1: Promotion of institutional and legal frameworks for improved cross border cooperation is ensured through the strengthening of regional, national, and local mechanisms.

Joint Programme Output 1: The capacity of the ALG is strengthened to coordinate and promote an evidence-based approach to policy, including information sharing - the institution has the skills to carry out its core functions - in line with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako Gourma region.

UNISS/UNSP Priority #2: Prevention and resolution of conflict, violent extremism, and crime; and promoting access to justice, human rights and the rule of law.

Joint Programme Outcome Area 2: Prevention and resolution of conflict, violent extremism, and crime; promotion of access to justice, human rights, and the rule of law

Joint Programme Output 2: Justice systems and defense mechanisms in the Liptako Gourma region are harmonized, operational, and strengthened. Cross-border communities have access to a criminal justice system and assistance mechanisms are available for victims.

Joint Programme Output 3: Capacities of local authorities and communities are strengthened in reconciliation and social cohesion, conflict prevention and management, and prevention of radicalization in the cross-border areas of Liptako Gourma.

UNISS/UNSP Priority #3: Promoting inclusive and equitable growth and access to basic social services

Joint Programme Outcome Area 3: Resilience of vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, to various socio-economic shocks is improved through vocational employment, increased access to basic social services and income generating activities

Joint Programme Output 4: The communities, in particularly women and youth, are better equipped through training vocational training for employment; and have increased access to basic social services and income generating opportunities

Joint Programme Output 5: Technical and operational capacities of education departments in the Liptako Gourma areas are improved and adapted to crisis situations and risk management

UNISS/UNSP Priority #4: Building resilience to climate change and reducing natural resource scarcity

Joint Programme Outcome Area 4: Resilience to climate change, scarcity reduction and natural resource management strengthened

Joint Programme Output 6: Local authorities and communities receive logistical support and training to cope with environmental shocks and climate change

Highlights of Some Key Results Achieved

So far, achievements are modest and incremental at this stage of reporting. However, these would be

consolidated into eventual successful outcomes by the end of the implementation period of October 2022, to allow all partners to capitalize on the results achieved for a possible phase two of the JP. The key results achieved have been described in detail in section 4. However, some of the major highlights have been summarised below.

UNDP is supporting ALG to strengthen its institution with the requisite skills and capacity to carry out its core functions in accordance with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako Gourma region. This included support with two vehicles, computers and GIS digital equipment including the relevant training for effective use of the equipment. ALG was also supported with communication capacity including staff and equipment to strengthen its coordination and partnership functions with member states and partners. To ensure that ALG has the requisite capacity for managing specific activities earmarked under the JP, UNDP supported ALG through micro assessment of programme and financial management capacity gaps within the framework of globally approved Harmonized Approaches to Cash Transfer (HACT). This resulted in strengthening the following areas of ALG capacities through on-site training and mentoring: fiduciary management, establishment of internal control frameworks, procurement, and programme management SOPs. Based on this, the ALG for the first time since its inception, was able to receive and adequately account for Cash Transfers for agreed activities. This is a major step towards effective fiduciary and results accountability.

Further, to fulfil its evidence-based policy mandate, UNECA supported ALG to undertake a socio-economic profile study for the Liptako Gourma region. The study was undertaken at the behest of member states and involved data gathering with and capacity reinforcements of the three statistical services of the member states-Burkina, Mali and Niger. The socio-economic profile report, which emanated from the study provided policy solutions aimed at unleashing the region's economic and social potential and ultimately improve the living conditions of the region's populations in spite of the dire security and covid-19 impacts. Some of the key policy solutions included agriculture modernisation to take advantage of the prospects of the full value chain, market and infrastructure development for inter-communal trade and linkages with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), improving financing for basic services and addressing fiscal gaps in dealing with the cost of financing IDPs in border territories.

The outcome of the study will continue to inform ongoing interventions of the JP.

Governance and rule of law deficit continues to remain a challenge in the Liptako Gourma region. The weak state institutional presence for the adjudication of rule of law, justice and human rights affects trust between different communal groups, social cohesion and community security. The JP is helping to address this through OHCHR and UNODC's work with local administrative authorities to strengthen local judicial systems and defence mechanisms in the Liptako Gourma region; to allow cross-border communities access to a criminal justice system; and to provide resource mechanisms for victims seeking help. In addition, UNWOMEN is addressing related incidences of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Today 61 women and girl survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) have been trained in psychosocial support in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. Also, more than 40 community-based information and awareness campaigns on the elimination of gender-based violence were conducted in the communes of intervention in Mali as well as 44 community radio broadcasts reaching over 10,000 audiences, and 3 round tables discussions involving several communities. To further reinforce the workings of the justice systems on behalf of cross-border communities, the ALG Governors' is planning to hold high level regional meeting of justice actors on the issue of access to justice in a context of security crisis in the Liptako Gourma region.

Indeed, the prevailing security situation has had a toll on community security in most rural cross border areas. The nature of the security concerns including through clan and tribal characterisation has led to community conflicts, mistrust, and weak social cohesion. To the extent that social infrastructure which for several centuries among predominant farmers and herders' tribes is now threatened with incessant conflicts and youth radicalisation by non-state armed groups. To address this, UNDP, UNODC, UNWOMEN and UNESCO are working in tandem with local communities, tribal groups of farmers and herders, youth groups, women groups and affected local authorities in the intervention areas of reconciliation, social cohesion, prevention of radicalization and conflict management in the cross-border communities. UNWOMEN has built the capacity of 170 women peace mediators as well as constructed two Peace Huts in Koro and Douentza (Mali) and two others in Bankilaré and Téra (Niger) for conflict mediation, peace dialogues as well as to address critical issues of women empowerment and gender-based violence. In



addition, 100 women affected by gender-based violence were empowered with equipment and tools necessary for them to develop their own income-generating opportunities in pastoral, and agricultural socio-economic ventures.

UNESCO trained 90 journalists in partnership with the Inter-African Network for Women, Media and Development (FAMEDEV) based in the Liptako Gourma region and supported them with content on conflict management and prevention to engage on peace and security sensibilisation campaigns across the Liptako Gourma region. To address the issues of radicalisation among youth especially in prisons, UNODC conducted trainings for 30 Prison officers in the region to detect early warning signals for radicalisation as well as to be engaged to in deradicalization campaigns. UNODC prisons campaigns was supported by community radios capacitated by UNESCO as part of its peace campaigns.

To address unemployment and livelihood dimensions of the conflicts, UNDP empowered 350 women and youth in Tilaberi and Terrathrough the establishment of agribusiness cooperatives, supported with multifunctional platforms for end-to-end value chain production of moringa and multi vegetable cropping products. This includes support for packaging as well as the constructions of exhibition shop for the range of branded products sold at regional markets of Tilaberi and, Mangainze which is two hours' drive away towards the border with Mali. To ensure the effective management, the cooperative groups were given bespoke management trainings, customarily held in local languages for assimilation. The modules covered included planning, organizing, bookkeeping, maintenance schedules and savings. These, in addition to conflict-sensitive aspects of community security and social cohesion.

Further, ILO provided capacity support for the future integration of 300 Internally Displaced young people (IDPs) comprising 178 young women and 122 young men.

ILO provided them with work kits/tools (buckets, dishes, wheelbarrows, watering cans, picks, shovels, gloves, watering troughs, etc.) to enable some of them to produce tomatoes, potatoes and onions and others to practice cattle and sheep fattening. The 300 young people came from impoverished families. Most of the young people fled terrorist attacks on their villages in the border between Burkina and Niger to the localities of Ouahigouya, Kaya and Fada N'Gourma. At the end of the trainings, minimum kits and training in business skills were provided to the beneficiaries so that they could set up their own business.

Reflecting on the reporting period, it is gainsaid that the implementation of the JP including the results achieved in have come through several challenges including security access and the prevailing impacts of Covid-19 in rural hard to reach areas. Several lessons have been learned for continuous improvements towards the eventual completion of the phase one of the JP. Some of the main ones included:

- Need to reinforce synergies, coordination at field level to strengthen results and impacts for beneficiaries.
- Need to strengthen the visibility of the JP including with local authority and communities.
- Need to strengthen coordination between local authorities, other partners in the field with UN agencies under the leadership of the LGA. To this end it was proposed to establish coordination platforms in each country.
- Need to strengthen joint monitoring, planning and analysis to reinforce the integrity of the JP to optimize coherence, synergies and complementarity of implementing agencies.
- Need to broaden partnership for implementation of activities including with Civil Society and other Community Based Organizations to reinforce synergies of results and impacts of similar activities on behalf of beneficiary communities.

Project Implementation Context



The implementation of the joint programme is defined by the rapidly evolving geopolitical, socio-economic and security contexts in the Liptako Gourma region. Located between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, the Liptako-Gourma region specifically covers an area of 370,000 square kilometers. More than 80% of its population lives in rural areas. The region is faced by multiple mutually reinforcing perturbations that threaten its stability and development prospects. Although the security situation is fluid and varies dramatically between localities, the overall security situation in terms of number of casualties and forcefully displaced populations has been observed to be worsening and is drifting southward over the past three years. The deteriorating security situation continues to impede vital services, including education, and contributes to increasing levels of food insecurity. Thus, even though GDP has steadily increased by an average of 3.7% in the ALG countries, so too has food insecurity and the perception among local populations of deteriorating livelihoods. These grievances, which themselves are aggravated by exponential demographic growth, COVID-19, and climate change, contribute to a loss of confidence in public institutions and processes creating conditions for more extreme and populist reactions.

Yet, although the current security, social and development contexts in the Liptako Gourma region has deteriorated since the inception of the joint programme, the current situation reaffirms its relevance still. Indeed, recent developments at the national, regional, and international levels that have contributed to a complex, multi-dimensional and interlinked set of challenges in the Liptako Gourma region lends credence to the importance of

the results and activities designed to ameliorate the situation through the joint programme.

Another dynamic which defines the programme implementation context is the recent spate of coup d'états (and attempts at it) as well as socio-political challenges, which now threaten the constitutional order. Mali has experienced two coup d'états in less than a year (August 18, 2020, and May 24, 2021). In Niger, a coup attempt was foiled two days before the inauguration of then president-elect Mohamed Bazoum in March 2021. In Burkina Faso, popular resentment against French army presence led to a riot in the town of Kaya in November 2021, spilling over into neighbouring Tillabery region in Niger later that year. Diplomatic tensions have risen dramatically in 2021, with Mali severing military ties with France in June 2021. France formally declared a phased pull-out of its 5,000 troops supporting Sahel security forces from the region.

Protracted conflict dynamics in the region show no sign of abating. According to ACLED data, the target regions in the three countries have seen 1,634 cases of violence against civilians, with 3,648 casualties, between November 2019 (when the Joint Programme formally started) and December 2021. This is without other forms of violence, such as battles involving SDF, riots, and unidentified events. Humanitarian emergencies have become protracted and are growing to alarming proportions. It is estimated that over 7.5 million people required emergency assistance in the region in 2020. The rising violence is driven in large part by competition over natural resources in rural areas, resulting in clashes among farmers, herders, and the population at large. There is a mutually reinforcing cycle

of violence from armed groups and inter-communal conflict, on the one hand, and weak presence of local authorities and SDF on the other. Attacks by armed groups negatively impact community infrastructure and threaten the livelihoods of communities, particularly in cross-border areas. An example of such an attack recently occurred on 5 June 2021, where a massacre in the town of Solhan killed around 160 people, representing the deadliest attack since the insurgency began in Burkina Faso.

The escalation of violence has also triggered internal displacements, with almost 2.5 million IDPs in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, adding pressure on host communities and straining available resources. Basic social services such as education, health and WASH have been critically affected by the rise in migration flows. According to UNICEF, insecurity and other causes have led to the closure of 1,533 schools in Mali since November 2020, with 459,900 children and 9,198 teachers affected in the regions of Ségou, Mopti, Douentza, Gao, Ménaka, Tombouctou, Kidal, and Koulikoro, Sikasso.

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES

The region also faces a looming food security crisis, with soaring food prices and slow economic recovery, putting enormous pressure on the social fabric. 38 million people are projected to become food insecure in the whole Western Sahel region in the 2022 lean season (between June-August), representing an increase of 22% in comparison to last year, threatening to degenerate into a development crisis as seen in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the production deficit across the region has pushed up the price of locally produced food. At the same time, the prices of imported food commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, oil and maize are at a record high, driven by increases in international markets, transport costs and trade barriers.

In addition to the security crisis, the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has eroded development gains, increased poverty and led to human security challenges. Border closures have affected small-scale traders that rely on mobility for their livelihood. The health impact of the crisis, though statistically less significant than other parts of the world, cannot be ignored – there have been over 50,000 reported cases, with over 1,000 deaths in the three countries. COVID-19, like in many countries, compounded what was already a protection crisis as GBV continues to rise in the region. In 2020, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of women and girls being abducted or sexually assaulted, including in the

Mopti region of Mali where more than 1,000 cases have been recorded in the area so far in 2020. This does not take into account the “dark number” of unreported cases, as girls and young women remain vulnerable in crises and emergencies, mainly due to a double discrimination based on age and gender, as well as harmful social norms.

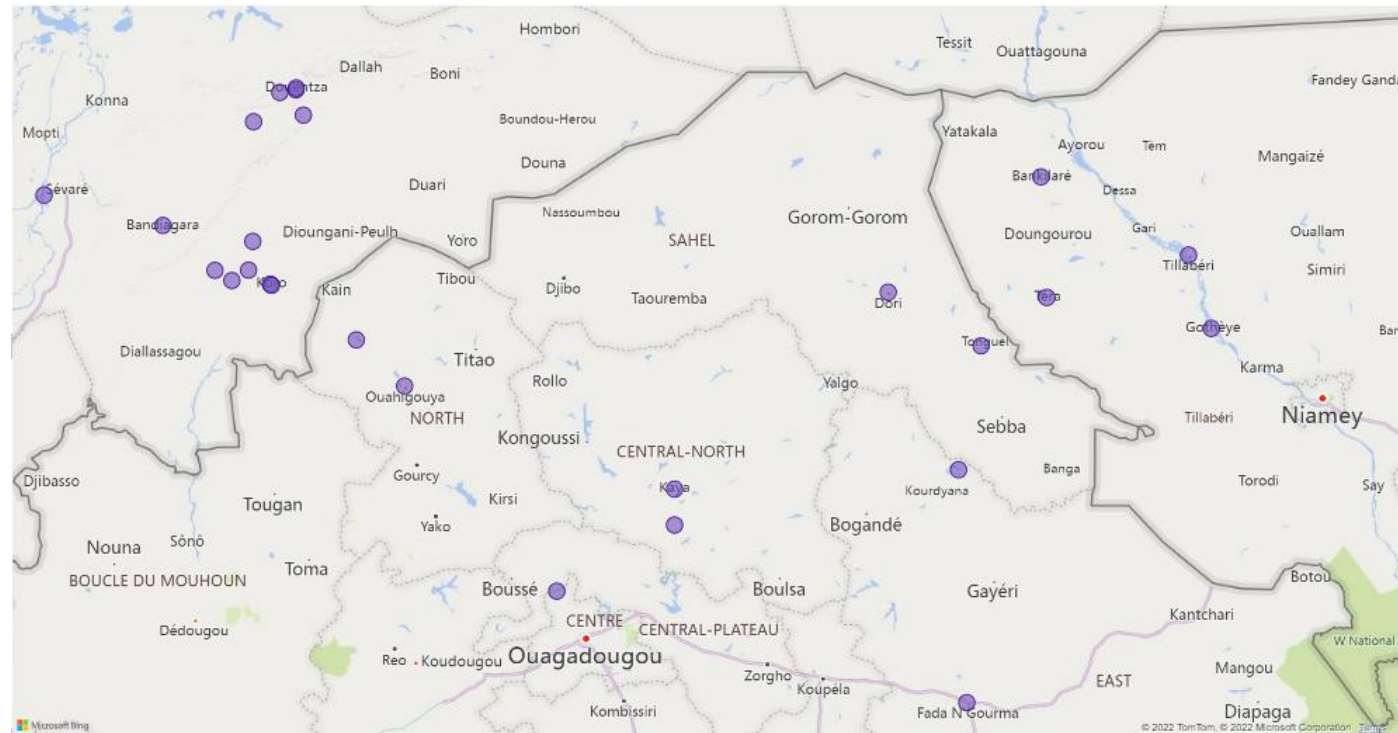
According to the finding of ECOWAS, ECA and WFP Covid-19 impact study in West Africa (2021), the restrictions measures implemented in 2020 had a significant impact on the socio-economic conditions of households, affecting income generation activities across the board and inflation and food prices. In 2021, many of the restrictions measures from 2020 year had been lifted entirely, including the re-opening of schools. Nonetheless, the aftershocks of the restrictions on the socio-economic lives of West Africans are still being felt. Hard-won gains in poverty reduction are beginning to show negative trends, with the proportion of people living on less than \$1.90 a day increasing by 2.3 percentage in 2020 and 2.9 percentage in 2021.

In the main, the rapidly changing and convoluted development, security and political contexts described above underpinned the setting within which the implementation of JP was situated. This in addition to Covid-19 in 2019 which meant that all JP activities were stopped for a whole year to begin with an accelerated plan in 2021.



Programme Geographical Intervention Zones

A key area of effectiveness of the JP was its design to maximize impacts through a delineation of geographical areas of intervention at the level of communes to focus to the joint interventions of UN agencies. Initially, the zones of intervention were broadly selected based on the OCHA/UNICEF/OECD resilience study. However, for ease of implementation, UN agencies operationalized this through internal analysis rather than a joint analysis to select targeted communes to achieve collective outcomes. Map 1 below shows the current communes and villages targeted for the JP implementation.



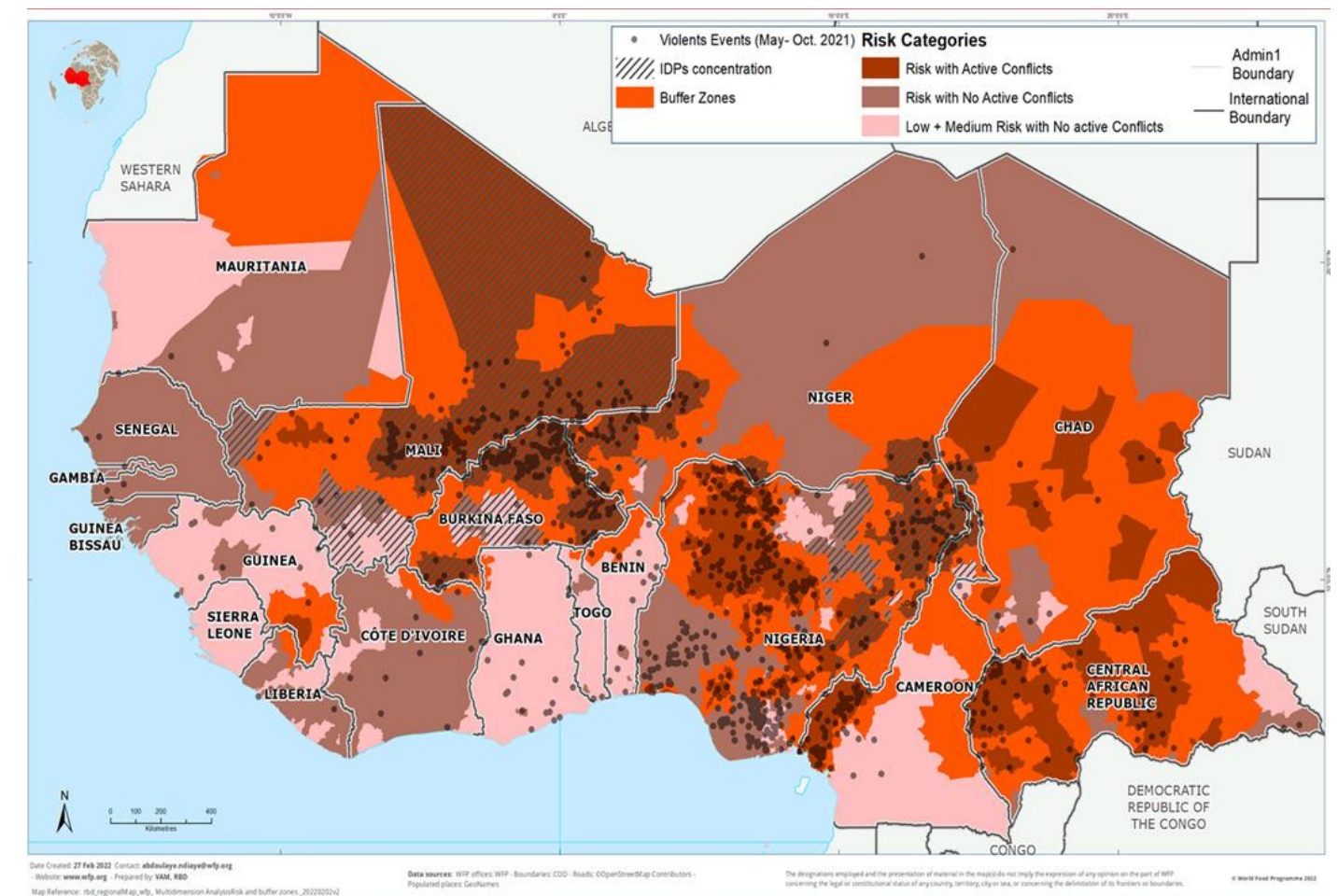
Current Communes of Intervention

Boundoré, Titabé, Mansila, Tankougounadié, Falagountou, Sampelga, Seytenga, Markoye, Tin-Akoff
Tilaberi, Terra, Bankilaré, Dargol, Diagourou, Gorouol, Gotheye, Mehanna, Kokoro Fada Ngourma, Kaya
Mopti, Mondoro, Thiou, Koro, Douentza
Songodin, in the commune of Boussouma, North Central Region (locality of Kaya).
Sambtenga and Bogoya, in the commune of Ouahigouya;

NOTE OF EXCEPTION

- Due to security and access challenges, implementation of activities did not cover (i) Tillabéri Region-Eastern Burkina border strip (ii) Mali-Niger border strips (the cross-border cooperation corridor on the Ayorou-Quatagouna axis including the villages of Koutougou, Labezzanga, Kongokiré).
- Exception decision was taken supported by the LGA based on high level Heads of State decision to include activities focusing on IDPs fleeing the violent extremism attacks from Burkina-Mali and Burkina Niger. Thus vocational and transversal educational trainings were offered by ILO and UNESCO to target young women and men IDPs settled in Kaya, Fada Ngourma, Djibo and Ouagadougou.

Figure 1: Current state of security in the Sahel region including areas of JP interventions. This shows that in spite of the spread of conflicts and insecurity, the areas of JP interventions are contributing to maintain resilience at the 'buffer zones'.



Programme Rationale and Implementation Approach

Joint Programme (JP) to Support the Implementation of Cross-Border Cooperation Activities in the Liptako Gourmar region was inspired by United Nations Delivery as One reform and was conceived as a proof of concept of same by United Nations (UN) agencies working across humanitarian-development close in close collaboration with the Integrated Development Authority of Liptako Gourma Member States (ALG) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The overall vision was to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and hard to reach border land communities facing ongoing security threats in the Sahel region exacerbated by environmental and climatic factors; including the spillover effect of the Mali crisis, which continues to affect peace and security in Burkina Faso, Niger and other neighboring countries. The joint programme was launched in October 2018 and now being implemented by UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and ECA and staffing support from UNV; alongside the Liptako Gourma Authority (LGA) as the principal beneficiary. The JP commenced with an initial funding of \$8.3mln through the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) structure; with UNDP acting as the coordinating agent and secretariat.

The implementation of the JP was set within rapidly evolving multidimensional security, development, socio-economic and political contexts as well as by the ongoing effects of the Covid-19. Notably, combinations of violent extremism, vulnerability, exclusion, increasing poverty and exacerbating climate security underpinned the related security risks of programme implementation and results achieved. Further, the developed context is defined by the continuous ranking of the Liptako Gourma countries at the lowest bottom of the Human Development Index HDI). Out of the 189 countries ranked, Mali is 184th, Burkina Faso is 182nd and Niger is 189th, with nearly 80% of the cross-border community of 17 million facing worst form of poverty. Also, while the global average life expectancy is 72.6 years, in the Liptako Gourma region it is an average of only 60.8 years, and the lowest life expectancy rates concern the Sahel region of Burkina Faso (56.1 years) and the Tombouctou region of Mali (57.2 years). The continuous socio-economic challenges in part arise from poor diversification;

agropastoral production based on inefficient production techniques, weak natural resources management, the predominance of informal sectors, and a subsistence economy - essentially based on agriculture, livestock, and artisanal fishing - which is unable to meet the food needs of the local population. Similarly, access to basic services – clean water, sanitation, health, and education – is limited and the quality often poor; in the central regions of Mali (Mopti and Segou), for example, local populations state that schools are not functional, community health centre lack human and material resources and courts lack people with the right expertise. All these are compounded by poor governance and weak state presence in the populous rural provinces, resulting in several decades of poor delivery and/or lack of access to essential services. Thus, these human security and development challenge formed the essence of the overall objective for the Joint programme.



The JP aimed to tackle the root causes of the multidimensional development and human security challenges described by gradual strengthening of the resilience of the border communities and re-establishment of community security to push against as well as ameliorate the current state of insecurity threats perpetuated by non-state actors on these border communities. Thus, the JP was premised on the theory of change (TOC) that by addressing the fundamental causes of poverty, inequality, and conflicts in the border regions through empowering women and youth, increasing access to basic services, livelihoods, and job creation; one can influence the conflict dynamics, stabilize communities, improve social cohesion, prevent crisis, and make strides towards sustainable development, which will manifest in a peaceful and a prosperous region.

To do this effectively the JP aligned its results in support of the priorities of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and its Sahel Support Plan (UNSP) which is at the center of the international response by development actors in the Sahel region. Strategically, the JP aligns with the Swedish Strategy for Development in the Sahel to amplify its results within the development community. Importantly, the JP aligns its concrete actions with the strategic priorities of the ALG at the local development level for effectiveness.

In its approach, the success of implementation drew from the definition of joint collective outcomes at the beginning, joint analysis, joint planning, concentrating efforts at delineated geographical intervention zones and joint ownership of results by community beneficiaries, local authority, ALG and the UN implementing agencies. This approach has the potential to benefit from the implementation of humanitarian-development nexus in the field, which can be leveraged across border communities for contributing towards achieving regional development impacts. This approach was adopted with the view to optimise the collective impacts of UN agencies at work at the local level.

Overall, the JP is ambitious. It is the first of its kind implemented under the auspices of the UNISS with eight (8), UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and ECA working regionally across three countries-Burkina, Mali and Niger. Also, given the number of agencies involved, the coordination challenges of the UN agencies are daunting. And so, it is for ALG for the overall realisation of the ultimate success of the JP. Nonetheless, the UN agencies in collaboration with local partners and authorities are assiduously implemented concrete actions on the field albeit under difficult security operating environments. So far, achievements are modest and incremental at this stage of reporting. However, these would be consolidated into eventual successful outcomes by the end of the implementation period of October 2022, to allow all partners to capitalize on the results achieved for a possible phase two of the JP.

The summary of the main outputs and respective contributions of each implementing agency is set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Joint Programme Outputs and Corresponding Implementation Agency	
Outputs	Lead agencies
Output 1: The capacity of the ALG is strengthened to coordinate and promote an evidence-based approach to policy, including information sharing - the institution has the skills to carry out its core functions - in line with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako Gourma region	ECA, UNDP
Output 2: Justice systems and defense mechanisms in the Liptako Gourma region are harmonized, operational, and strengthened. Cross-border communities have access to a criminal justice system and assistance mechanisms are available for victims.	OHCHR, UNODC, UNDP UNWOMEN
Output 3: Capacities of local authorities and communities are strengthened in reconciliation and social cohesion, conflict prevention and management, and prevention of radicalization in the cross-border areas of Liptako Gourma	UNODC, UNESCO, UNDP
Output 4: The communities, in particularly women and youth, are better equipped through training vocational training for employment; and have increased access to basic social services and income generating opportunities	UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO
Output 5: Technical and operational capacities of education departments in the Liptako Gourma areas are improved and adapted to crisis situations and risk management	UNESCO, UNICEF
Output 6: Local authorities and communities receive logistical support and training to cope with environmental shocks and climate change	UNESCO, UNDP



Achievement and Results Reporting 2018/19-2021

This provides detail report of achievements of the JP from its inception 2018/2019 to 2021. The reported results were based on activities operationalised individually by agencies based on mandates and agreed division of labour per output contribution. It is important to note that whilst this approach is effective in allowing each agency to focus and accelerate activities as a contribution towards the agreed collective outputs, it was not effective in naturally ensuring synergies and complementarity as required by the essence of the JP to maximise results through efficiency, and coherence. This issue will be further elaborated in the Lessons learned section. Nonetheless, it is also important to underscore that the results reported at this current reporting period were demonstrated at the output level with the view to analyse the extent to which they contribute to impacts at the outcome level towards the end of the programme period of October 2022. The main results as per the six outputs are presented below.

OUTPUT 1:

Output 1: The capacity of the LGA is strengthened to coordinate and promote an evidence-based approach to policy, including information sharing - the institution has the skills to carry out its core functions - in line with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako-Gourma region

01 Results related to JP Outcome Area 1: The promotion of institutional and legal frameworks for improved cross border cooperation is ensured through the strengthening of regional, national, and local mechanisms.

This output aimed to address development issues related to regional coordination mechanisms with focus on strengthening the capacity of LGA to coordinate and promote results-based approach to policy and decision-making in the Liptako Gourma region. The results-based approach was intended to enable the institution to carry out its core functions in accordance with its renewed mandate and to adapt to changing regional and international crisis situations. The activities of output 1 therefore focused on building the capacity of the LGA to coordinate and promote an evidence-based approach to policy as well as ensuring that the institution has the skills required to carry out its core functions and renewed mandate, whilst adapting to the evolving regional crises/ security situation.

Progress towards achieving the output results was made through the coordination and joint intervention of UNDP, UNICEF and ECA. The main achievements are reported below:

GIS and, Programme Coordination Support Capacity

UNDP supported ALG to strengthen its institution with the requisite skills and capacity to carry out its core functions in accordance with the renewed mandate to improve cross-border cooperation in the Liptako Gourma region. This included support with two vehicles and computers. ALG was also supported with communication capacity including staff and equipment to strengthen its coordination and partnership functions with member states and partners. To strengthen its analytical and coordination capacity, UNDP provided the ALG with GIS systems including with the requisite technical training of relevant staffs in Decentralization and Cross Border Cooperation units. Thus far, the GIS unit has operated with less effectiveness because of turn-over of the technical staffs whose positions have not been filled. In addition, the coordination capacity including M&E expertise envisaged at the onset of the programme has not been filled; rather LGA leveraged internal capacities to play these roles with less optimum results. This has resulted in the ALG unable to effectively provide overall strategic coordination of field activities for the JP; especially given its complexity of the magnitude involving 8 UN agencies across three boundary countries. To address this, the ALG capacity will be prioritised for reinforcements. The specific capacities that will be prioritised will include programme coordination specialist, M&E and ALG analyst, partnership, and communication specialist. In terms of programme management and fiduciary capacity, UNDP assisted the ALG coordination team through a micro assessment process. This was done through assessment of capacity gaps existing, within the framework of globally approved Harmonized Approaches to Cash Transfer (HACT). The following areas of ALG capacities were strengthened through on-site training and mentoring: fiduciary management, establishment of internal control frameworks, procurement, and programme management SOPs. Based on this, LGA for the first time was able to receive and adequately account for Cash Transfers for agreed activities. This is a major step towards effective fiduciary and results accountability.

Capacity for Socioeconomic Reporting and Results Based Decision Making

As part of strengthening the ALG capacity for prospective analysis and evidence-based policy decision making, UNECA supported ALG to undertake a socio-economic profile study for the Liptako Gourma region. This study was undertaken at the behest of member states and involved data gathering and capacity reinforcements of the three statistical services of the member states-Burkina, Mali and Niger. The report analysed, the socio-economic situation and dynamics of the Liptako Gourma region and identified key challenges that need to be addressed to unleash the region's economic and social potential and ultimately improve the living conditions of the region's populations. The socioeconomic report was produced with the help of each country's national and local Bureau of Statistics. I. The socio-economic profile report identified six challenges to be addressed. These

areas will inform ongoing JP activities and prospective ones including emerging programme opportunities for the future. The areas are: (i) modernisation of the agriculture sector including all aspects of value chain for job creation, poverty reduction and industrialisation (ii) the consequences of the security crisis for all sectors, both social and productive (iii) the long and short term impacts of state mobilised resources to address the growing needs of IDPs with antecedent consequences on fiscal space management for social development imperatives (iv) challenges of member states resources mobilisation, ODA flows and private sector investment flows (v) increasing demography growth with consequences on state provision for social and basic services-health, education, sanitation, housing, water, skills training etc for livelihoods and job creation (vi) the socio-economic and security impacts posed by the challenges of poor road networks connecting border communities across the LG region.

In addition, a regional online socioeconomic database was also developed and posted on the ALG website which is currently being managed by the ALG. The database includes the data collected for the socioeconomic report at the local level with the aim to reduce the current cross-border socio economics data gaps. The socio-economic report responds to LGA's strategic objective demanded at the behest of the Council of Ministers held in Bamako, Mali in December 2018, it was envisioned as one of the main tools needed to support socio-economic decision-making for the benefit of political authorities and development actors of ALG member states in general.

To further strengthen the institutional frameworks of LG member states, the JP supported the ALG in their institutional reform with the finalization of a strategic document 2022-2026 and resource mobilization strategy. The strategic document 2022-2026 will be validated July 2022.

Integrated Border Management Strategy

The JP supported LGA member states to develop an integrated border and cross border management strategy as a framework for enhancing movements of people, goods and services across the Liptako Gourma region. The strategy covered aspects for harmonising legal frameworks to enhance the free movement of cross-border communities in the Liptako Gourma region. After the inception and validation of this common strategy, it was agreed to ensure the document be available in the various local languages in the cross-border communities. This activity is yet to be carried out and therefore will be prioritised for AWP 2022. For effectiveness, the operationalisation of the integrated border management strategy should take into account the specific analysis of the socio-economic situation of the border region contained in the UNECA report to facilitate trade for peace aspects through enabling policies for the movements of goods, people and services and linking this to the overall Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



OUTPUT 2 & 3:

Output 2: Justice systems and defense mechanisms in the Liptako Gourma region are harmonized, operational, and strengthened. Cross-border communities have access to a criminal justice system and assistance mechanisms are available for victims.

Output 3: Capacities of local authorities and communities are strengthened in reconciliation and social cohesion, conflict prevention and management, and prevention of radicalization in the cross-border areas of Liptako Gourma.

02 Results Related to JP Outcome Area 2: Prevention and resolution of conflict, violent extremism, and crime; promotion of access to justice, human rights, and the rule of law

The results area 2 combines the elements of outputs 2 and 3 in an integrated fashion. It was designed this way to foster synergies and coherence of agencies in key areas of intervention where mandates mutually reinforced each other. **Output 2** focuses on promoting access to criminal justice and victim support in cross-border zones and in particular ensuring that communities in cross-border areas have access to the justice system. This included activities such as training and awareness-raising campaigns for the community, local elected representatives, legal advisers, and judges. The output also included effective support to ensure that judicial systems and defense mechanisms in the Liptako Gourma region are harmonized, operational and strengthened. This included ensuring that cross-border communities have access to a criminal justice system; assistance mechanisms are available through mobile court hearings in border areas for victims. This is done by placing particular emphasis on women and gender-based violence by providing psychosocial support to women, survivors of violence; and by raising awareness about the elimination of gender-based violence.

Output 3 focuses on strengthening the capacities of local authorities and communities in reconciliation and social cohesion, conflict prevention and management, prevention of radicalization in the cross-border areas of Liptako Gourma. This includes strengthening the capacities of communities in conflict prevention and management, reconciliation, and social cohesion, and especially the prevention of radicalization in the areas of intervention of the project. This with a special focus on increasing women's participation in peace processes; organized dialogues between herders and farmers with an aim to prevent and resolve transhumance conflicts related to natural resources while creating a mechanism for peaceful dialogue and social cohesion between border and security officers and the communities of the regions concerned to communicate with each other. This output sought to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to prevent conflict by carrying out several analyses on existing early warning/early warning and conflict management systems. In addition, a regional exchange platform for national commissions on small arms and light weapons (SALW) ought to be established with a view to : (i) combating the proliferation of SALW in border regions and (ii) implementing Progress made towards achieving the results Outcome Area 2 was through the collaboration of OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, and UNICEF in tandem with ALG. The main results achieved so far are set out below:

Civil-Military Cooperation

The prevailing security contexts has created stark humanitarian situations necessitating the application of the H-D-P nexus for interventions in the Liptako Gourma region. However, in the context of humanitarian actions in the region, it is important to ensure dialogue and interaction between military and civilians to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid rivalries, reduce inconsistencies and, where appropriate, pursue common goals. To this end, OHCHR in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) organized capacity-building workshops in Bamako and Niamey in March 2022 with the aim to share good practices on civil-military coordination. The objectives of these workshops were to: 1) provide a common knowledge and harmonize use of language relating to civil-military coordination, 2) strengthen knowledge of the framework for the protection of human rights and humanitarian law, including early warning and prevention, and 3) to create a network of resource persons for ALG that can support capacity-building initiatives in civil-military coordination in a sustainable manner.



At the end of these training workshops on civil-military coordination, a wide variety of actors with varied mandates and operational policies were mobilised to give effect to harmonised approaches and framework for common engagement in civil-military interventions. The workshop therefore made it possible to undertake a thorough analysis of the roles and capacities of humanitarian interventions, and to mobilise all the participants - military, humanitarian, local authorities, and civil society organizations - involved in civil-military coordination, around the different approaches, and perspectives to carry out actions with a better impact in support of populations affected by the various security and humanitarian crises.

Another key outcome of the training workshop was the commitment by all civil-military partners present to sharing information necessary for effective coordination of interventions taking into consideration the specificities of the security and social contexts. In doing so, particular emphasis was placed on the involvement of local authorities and civil society organizations – which act as intermediaries between the local populations and humanitarian actors on the one side and humanitarian actors and the military on the other – as an important link for a better functioning of existing mechanisms. A key result from this activity in support of the intended outcome was the mobilisation of the full range of actors around civil-military coordination principles to facilitate humanitarian-development interventions. It is expected that these principles will continue to be operationalised in support of H-D activities across the Liptako Gourma region under the joint leadership of the OHCHR and OCHA.

In addition, the training helped to sensitize civilian humanitarian actors on the role and mission of the military resulting in the prospect of continued future dialogue aimed at improving relationships between military and the populations affected by crises. Through the simulation exercises, the participants were able to define the difficulties related to humanitarian assistance and further expressed their need for dialogue between humanitarian and military actors. The trainings also resulted in the merit of breaking down certain prejudices and perceptions that some people may have had on either side and the panels made it possible to address several current concerns including among others, the issue of targeting, the involvement of local authorities, escorts, etc.

The trainings made it possible to clarify the importance of the distinction between civilians and combatants, the protection of civilians and to better understand the legal framework of human rights as well as the responsibilities incumbent on the various civil and military actors in the respect and protection of rights, especially in times of conflict.

Complementing this, UNDP in conjunction with MINUSMA conducted a civil-military dialogue in Koro and Douentza in the Mopti region to improve military and civilian cooperation for livelihood activities especially for women in the community. The dialogue has since improved the opportunities for close working with MINUSMA to protect civilians through their livelihood activities.

To further strengthen trust between the population and the defense and security forces, UNDP supported the process of setting up Security Advisory Committees (referred to as Communal Consultative Committees) in Koro and Douentza, which served as a framework for exchange between the security forces and the populations to restore trust and improve their effectiveness.

Peace and Human Rights Awareness Campaigns

OHCHR and UNESCO jointly undertook a massive peace and human rights across Liptako Gourma region. The campaign was undertaken through key community radio networks who were specifically trained jointly by UNESCO and OHCHR. The radio networks included prominent ones such as Koura Radio, Jamana, radio Guinta, Radio Saghan as well as Union des Radios et Télévisions Libres du Mali (Union of Free Radios and Televisions of Mali - URTEL) which gathers around 171 radio networks. Through these strategic partnerships established with the radio networks, OHCHR has prioritised awareness raising campaign for AWP 2022 on humanitarian rights and principles. For effectiveness, the campaign will be run in both French and relevant local languages. The campaign is estimated to reach over 300,000 audiences in border communities through these radio networks.

OHCHR is also working in collaboration with UNODC and local partners to conduct a mapping of human rights actors in the region for human rights advocacy. This activity is ongoing and will be prioritised in AWP 2022 for completion. OHCHR will ensure that the messaging and targeting benefit from other research studies such as the socio-economic profile of ALG from human rights perspective.

Human Rights Awareness Training for the Military

Taking into consideration that all 13 Departments in the Tillabéri Region were under a state of emergency, it was important for the Defense and Security Forces who were on the ground in these conflict zones to be properly trained to identify the needs, freedoms, and human rights of the population it serves. When not taken into consideration, it could lead to the same security forces committing abuses and violations. It was in this context that UNDP in Conjunction with OHCHR and UNODC in Niger organized a training session bringing together the Defense and Security Forces of the area. The security forces were trained on human rights norm and principles as well as modalities for upholding these rights both in normal and in exceptional times.

Administration of Justice, Peace building and Conflict Prevention

UNODC and OHCHR organised a training for 20 community leaders (traditional and religious) from different communes in the Tillabéri region, Niger equipping them with the necessary skills to prevent and manage conflicts peacefully by applying institutional justice best practices, especially in areas where the State is absent. The traditional leaders were also trained on the roles and mandates of the defense and security forces (SDF) and other actors in the penal chain (ACP). This helped to improve their understanding for better engagement on behalf of the communities. Through this activity, UNODC was able to strengthen the traditional leaders understanding of their rights and remedies to promote peaceful conflict management through institutional justice. At the end of the training, the traditional leaders expressed their confidence and commitment to collaborate more with the representatives of the State. They also advocated for a strong involvement in the process of drafting and passing laws and regulations related to counterterrorism, violent extremism, and peacebuilding. The implementation of this activity will continue throughout 2022, particularly in Burkina Faso and Mali, where UNODC and OHCHR will work together to define the action plan for the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns and training for about 90 traditional leaders, religious leaders, and women's and youth associations, on the judicial procedures of institutional justice, with the aim to strengthen the sense of public confidence in the judicial system. To improve the quality of judicial services to the populations of Koro and Douentza, UNDP further supported the strengthening of the technical and logistical capacities of local judicial institutions in the provinces.

Capacity for Intelligence to Combat Radicalisation of Violent Extremism in Prisons

As part of the technical assistance to strengthen the prison administration in the Liptako Gourma region of Burkina Faso and particularly in UNODC undertook an activity to develop prison intelligence to combat violent extremism in the region. In this regard, UNODC provided technical support to the Directorate of Military Intelligence and the Directorate of Prison Administration (DGAP), to develop a preliminary draft regulatory and legal framework for intelligence. The purpose of this legal framework was to supplement the decree which establishes the Directorate General of Prison Administration (DGAP), which refers to prison intelligence without specifying its principles, organization, and competence. With this new legal framework on intelligence adopted, DGAP became qualified to be integrated into the wider global intelligence community network as a key player in preventing and countering violent extremism in Burkina Faso.

Based on the new legal framework therefor, UNODC carried out training on prison intelligence techniques. The training was provided to 30 prison officers making up the embryonic prison intelligence cell in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The training, which aimed to strengthen the capacity of prison staff to prevent violent extremism, included the following modules: intelligence techniques, intelligence cycle, identifying and evaluating sources of information, the quality of the intelligence officer, developing intelligence note, infiltration techniques and prisoners' rights in the context of the implementation of prison intelligence. The training was well received by participants who were able to hold discussions with a leading intelligence expert in the region. During the exchanges, the systematization of methods and tools at the national level and the capacity building of agents selected by national intelligence experts were recommended.

Violent Extremism Sensitization in Prison

UNODC has currently scheduled this activity to be completed in July 2022, with the goal of sensitizing 1,000 prisoners on the prevention of violent extremism, using radio programs. The sensitization programme will leverage the strategic partnerships with the community radio network established by UNESCO to broadcast the campaign messages in the prisons. The content of the radio programs will be developed in close collaboration with civil society working in the targeted prisons, to ensure the sustainability of the intervention. Through the implementation of these initiatives, UNODC will work with the Prison services in Mali, Burkina and Niger both to improve the capacity of the prison institution to prevent violent extremism in prisons as well as to raise awareness among prisoners about the risks associated with violent extremism.





Media Capacity for Mitigating Conflict

To further the goal of countering violent extremism and promoting social cohesion, in November 2021, UNESCO organized a series of national training workshops in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, to train local and community media on the processing of sensitive information in conflict zones. Training modules made it possible to revisit the role and responsibilities of journalists in times of crisis and to redefine the missions of the media, the means of coverage in crisis situations, the methods of treatment adapted and responsible for reliable and useful information to local populations. The series of trainings conducted in partnership with the Inter-African Network for Women, Media, and Development (FAMEDEV) has enabled the capacity building of at least 90 journalists based in the Liptako Gourma region and to support the production of quality content on themes capable of preventing or managing conflicts, to engage populations on peace issues, security, and development. Trained in preventative journalism and the legal and social responsibilities related to the animation of interactive programs on community radios, the journalists (30% women) who took part in the national workshops were also grouped in Bamako, Mali for a regional workshop that led to the establishment of a network of journalists specializing in the subject.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the capacities of local radio stations by ensuring credible and reliable public access to information (SDG 16) in conflict zones through the strengthening of journalists' skills, the promotion of peace and the establishment of the network. UNESCO collaborated with two local organizations RECAC and Radio la Voix du Paysan, to conduct the mapping and need assessment of local radio stations in the 10 border communes. The mapping and needs assessment sought to gather information to inform the development of training modules on conflict-sensitive reporting and, developing radio programs for promoting community security and social cohesion. The training targeted journalist from 30 community radio stations each of Mali, Niger and Burkina. Together these community radio stations have an estimated reach of over 300, 000 listeners. Through their peace and social cohesion advocacy programs so far, the incidence of violence and attacks in several communes in the Niger-Burkina borders has significantly reduced. This objective has been achieved despite the difficulty of identifying speakers who can translate the modules into oral versions in local languages and the difficulty of mobility for participants caused by the resurgence of armed attacks in the cross-border region.

The activity mobilized the Liptako Gourma Authority which was able to hear the practical needs of media personnel in the community, and their strategic interests in communicating information in times of crisis. From these trainings, lessons were learned on the consequences of mishandling conflict-sensitive information and the need for better use of legal texts that govern the practice of journalism and freedom of expression and opinion.

Further, to promote development change in the region, an integrated and coordinated intervention approach was designed with the aim of promoting synergies and complementarity of actions of all actors from different sectors for a sustainable impact of interventions to benefit the communities. UNESCO collaborated with the LGA to identify a set of responses that the United Nations system could provide, according to the areas of competence, to strengthen the socio-economic development of the localities of the region.

The series of national and regional workshops on conflict-sensitive journalism organized by UNESCO for local and community radio stations in the region has helped to equip journalists - key actors for development - on techniques and mechanisms for promoting peace and social cohesion. Indeed, improving communication and information on critical risks and events among all local communities and combating disinformation through trained and qualified journalists is essential to produce quality information that can raise awareness and push for change instead of generating new conflicts. The prevention and resolution of conflicts, the fight against violent extremism and crime, and the promotion of peace therefore inevitably requires information that has the power to influence the masses. Hence the relevance of the training modules that focused on these different elements and allowed journalists to be equipped to produce fair, credible, and useful content for peace in crisis situations.

To establish lasting peace and cohesion in this area and throughout the region, it is crucial to ensure the availability of sufficient, current, and situational scientific knowledge to inform political decisions and guarantee the massive and inclusive participation of all social strata in the sustainability of social cohesion and peace in the region that of young people, who represent more than half of the population. Thus, aware of the need to provide rapid and sustainable responses to the problem of security and to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue, UNESCO intends to contribute

to strategic reflection for a better consideration of the aspirations of communities in development actions. The approach advocated by the project is to contribute to social cohesion among populations and community security through interventions in the priority areas identified in the Joint Programme and UNISS. A better knowledge of the situation would however contribute to the overall strategy to combat poverty by creating new income opportunities for young people and women through the development of promising channels likely not only to prevent them from being recruited into extremist movements, but also to establish peace, solidarity, mutual aid and tolerance in the group and the community.

Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW)

UNDP conducted a study on the analysis of the legislative framework on Small Arms Light Weapons in Niger. This study was conducted in collaboration with the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Weapons. The consultant has submitted a final report. A key finding of the study was the need to update the legislative framework to meet international standards and ECOWAS requirements-the legal framework has not been revised for the last 40 years. The study also observed that the current statutes establishing CNCCAI, the institution in charge of illicit weapons, does not adequately equip it to fully carry out its mandate. Support for this will be prioritised in AWP 2022 along side activities to strengthen the capacities of the two other national commissions in Mali and Niger.

Gender Based Violence

The prevailing security situation has had a toll on community security in most rural cross border areas. The nature of the security concerns including through clan and tribal characterisation has led to community conflicts, mistrust, and weak social cohesion. To the extent that social infrastructure which for several centuries among predominant farmers and herders' tribes is now threatened with incessant conflicts and youth radicalisation by non-state armed groups. To address this, UNWOMEN has been working in tandem with local communities, tribal groups of women farmers and herders, youth groups, and affected local authorities in the areas of reconciliation, social cohesion, and conflict management in the cross-border communities. UNWOMEN has built the capacity of 170 women peace mediators as well as constructed two Peace Huts in Koro and Douentza (Mali) and two others in Bankilaré and Téra (Niger) for conflict mediation, peace dialogues as well as to address critical issues of women empowerment and gender-based violence. The peace huts currently serve as safe haven for women to discuss pertinent issues affecting their well being as well as mediate intercommunal conflicts. So far about 35 cases in total has been adjudicated by the mediators in Koro, Douentza, Bankilare and Tera communities.

The UNWOMEN and partners have made it possible to provide assistance mechanisms for victims in the LG region. Resulting in 61 women and youth survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) benefitting from psychosocial support and 90 information and awareness campaigns on the elimination of gender-based violence have been conducted in the communes of Koro and Douentza in Mali, and Bankilaré and Téra in Niger. Some examples of the products produced as part of the information and awareness campaigns include 44 local and national radio broadcasts, three round tables conducted in Koro and Douentza, and five community radio hosts trained in Niger on formulating protection messages, promoting women's rights, fighting against GBV, as well as how to lead radio debates to better inform and sensitize communities on the fight against GBV, conflict prevention and management. In addition, 100 women affected by gender-based violence were empowered with equipment and tools necessary for them to develop their own income-generating opportunities in pastoral, and agricultural socio-economic ventures.

Early Warning Systems

UNODC is finalising a study conducted on early warning systems in the Liptako Gourma countries. The outcome of the study so far has revealed the urgent need to define an early warning governance mechanism for the three borders; including with the specific capacities needed to do this. The study further underscored the importance of strengthening the capacity of ALG to assume a strong coordination role between the three countries. In addition, the study recommended strengthening collaboration and coordination between crisis management centres and early warning actors (including private sector) in early warning chain. Another key priority identified by this study is the need to strengthen the capacities of early warning actors by defining the roles of each actor (from the analyst to the actors in the field, through the institutional and non-institutional relays). The key outcomes of the study will inform the establishment of an early warning mechanism/ crisis coordinating center for Liptako Gourma region to be hosted by the Sahelian Centre for Threat Analysis and Early Warning (CSAMAP).





Tackling Inter-Community Conflicts and Violence

UNDP Niger brought together over 200 youth in Tera and Bankilaré under the auspices of High Authority for Peacebuilding organized to be trained in conflict management and prevention, risks of violent extremism and youth radicalisation. The training targeted unemployed youth, who have engaged in prior communal clashes and possess a high risk of recruitments by jihadists groups. The youth were encouraged to organise into a cooperative for eventual vocational and entrepreneurial training opportunities.

To specifically address the spates of inter-communal violence in a systematic way, UNESCO is conducting a study on the mapping of societal violence entitled: Community conflicts and societal violence in the Liptako Gourma region. This is being done in accordance with the research guidelines (pillar 1) of UNESCO's MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Program, which advocates the preparation of a systematic and organized body of scientific knowledge in order to inform public policies relevant to the achievement of the 2030 Agendas of the United Nations and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union. The process of knowledge production as well as the results of the study should make it possible to inform public policies using a participatory and inclusive approach considering all social components, especially young people who represent the most numerous and exposed segment of the population.

In this regard, the approach of the study as well as its outputs are likely to provide the different stakeholders (States, academics, youth organizations and networks, etc.) with a platform for exchanges, trust building and ownership, to create the conditions to mobilize the knowledge produced to shape and inform relevant, inclusive, and equitable public policies, from conceptualization to implementation and evaluation. One of the major objectives of this study was to map, given the contexts, societal violence, and conflicts in the Liptako Gourma region. In a second step, the objective will be to analyse the socio-political dynamics and to present a diagnosis of the situation in the Liptako Gourma region to optimize interventions for a lasting peace. The study will make an invaluable contribution to the ongoing and new activities planned by several agencies notably OHCHR, UNDP, UNODC and UNWOMEN during the course of the AWP 2022 JP activities implementation.

OUTPUT 4 & 5:

Output 4: The communities, in particularly women and youth, are better equipped through training vocational training for employment; and have increased access to basic social services and income generating opportunities

Output 5: Technical and operational capacities of education departments in the Liptako Gourma areas are improved and adapted to crisis situations and risk management

03 Results Related to JP Outcome Area 3: Resilience of vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, to various socio-economic shocks is improved through vocational employment, increased access to basic social services and income generating activities

Progress towards achieving the results related to outcome area 3 was made through activities delivered around the combination of outputs 4 and 5. The aim of output 4 is to assist vulnerable communities, especially women and youth, to be better equipped through vocational training for employment; and to have increased access to basic social services and income-generating opportunities. These include activities related to access to information and know-how on inclusive economy, financial services, socio-economic services, and employment opportunities, especially for young women and men. At the political level, activities sought to support the formulation and/or integration of an employment policy into local/national/regional development plans. Output 5 supports the improvement and better adaption of technical and operational capacities of education departments in the Liptako Gourma to crisis situations and risk management. It sought to address the challenges of low literacy rates in the region by strengthening the technical and operational capacities of local authorities and raising awareness among the population to increase the participation of girls and boys in primary and secondary schools. Ensuring direct support through strengthening systems and facilitating access for water supply and sanitation in schools in the identified areas, for vulnerable children to improve access to infrastructure and educational materials.

Results detailed were achieved through the collaboration of UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, and UNICEF with support from ALG and are set out below:

Building Resilience Through Income Generating Activities

Several studies have universally shown that agribusiness proves to be of a tremendous potential for income generation among women and youth in the region. Invaluable crops with vast potential are Moringa and the several varieties of grain and cereals. Thus, UNDP supported a pilot initiative through the establishment of women and youth cooperatives for agribusiness. As a baseline for understanding the potential of moringa production in the region, a study was conducted by the Regional Directorate of Agriculture. It was found that scaling up Moringa production would allow for the creation of many job opportunities for women and youth, giving them income generating opportunities that result in a diminished likelihood for them to be recruited by armed extremist groups. In communes of Tilaberi 350 women and youth in cooperatives were supported with processing platforms for end-to-end value chain production of moringa and multi vegetable cropping products. This included supporting beneficiary women with an exhibition shop for the range of branded products as well as connecting with the local market. To ensure the effective management, the cooperative groups were supported with bespoke management trainings, customarily held in local languages for assimilation. The modules covered included planning, organizing, bookkeeping, maintenance schedules and savings. These were taught in addition to conflict-sensitive aspects of community security and social cohesion. To maximize the potential benefits of this intervention on behalf of the women as well as strengthen synergies, the programme intends to leverage funds from UNDP Africa Borderlands cross border initiative to expand access to market spaces, solar powered refrigerated warehouses for storages and trainings to acquire modernize production techniques. By these interventions, hitherto excluded women and youth from benefits from potential socioeconomic ventures and cross border trade would now have the opportunity to partake in this. Potentially, this could also position the producers towards accessing private sector investment for partaking in regional markets opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).





In addition, in support of strengthening results, UNDP in Niger acquired and installed four multifunctional platforms (MTPF), funded through UNDP GEF Energy project to leverage the joint programme by specifically targeting adjoining communities. Thus, two platforms each were installed in the commune of Téra and the commune of Bankilaré. The MTPF has benefitted additional 250 women who are able to process harvested grains (of four varieties) for timely packaging and marketing. According to the women farmers, with the support of the MPTF labor productivity has improved by shortening the grain processing time from 1 week to 2 days reducing post-harvesting losses by more than 300%. The MPTF also provides energy services for powering electricity in the communities during evenings. This has improved the learning hours for children tremendously. Further, to specifically target young women for agriculture value chain pilot initiative in Tera, the joint programme supported the acquisition of a sesame oil press, the installation of the equipment acquired from the Songhai center established with UNDP support in Benin. So far 50 women have been trained in the use of the processing equipment for the processing and bottling of various fruit juices.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Malian NGO IMADEL, supported the implementation of 120 small projects for 60 young people and 60 women IDPs from Koro, Douentza, and Mopti, enabling the women and youth to strengthen their resilience and their ability to meet their needs, while reintegrating into the local economy. Furthering the purposes of the Joint Program and encouraging multiple interventions within the same localities, UNICEF rehabilitated 10 water points in various communities, five in Douentza and five in Koro, allowing for about 4,000 direct beneficiaries to have sustainable access to drinking water.

Job Creation for Women and Youth through Animal Husbandry

300 women and 100 youth organized in cooperative groups in Titabe and Thiou (Burkina), were trained in various pastoral ventures including meat production and dairy production. Of these, 123 people (most of whom were women), benefited from ram kits for fattening activities and strengthening animal production. The kits were distributed as follows: 1) In the commune of Titabé, a total of 50, including 33 women and 17 youth, benefited from these kits, which consist of two Sahelian rams between 18 and 24 months old. 2) In the commune of Thiou, there were two types of kits: Ram kits for the realization of sheep fattening were given to 35 women, and kits were also distributed to 38 women who had lost or abandoned their villages due to insecurity.

The beneficiaries were trained in production, conservation and processing techniques including basic veterinary science for maintaining the health of their animals. All trainings were conducted in local languages. To address the issues of post-harvest losses, the beneficiaries were supported with solar energy storage equipment (including batteries and panels, regulators, cables, circuit breakers, support for the panels, batteries etc.) to enable storage, conservation, processing, and marketing of quality dairy products. Within the framework of this support led by UNDP, women and youth have benefited from animal kits (fatten cow for meat and dairy production) to strengthen their financial autonomy and socio-economic integration. The animal production activities of all beneficiaries were accompanied by livestock extension service provided by the local administration in both communes.

Improving Access to Water for Domestic and Pastoral Use

In order to support animal husbandry and access to portable water, UNDP installed four water points or boreholes to alleviate geared towards domestic and pastoral use. These included boreholes located in the bordering zone of the commune, in sector 1 of Thiou, which has a flow rate of 3.7m³ per hour and a depth of 64 meters; one located in sector 4 of Thiou, with a flow of 2.6m³ of water per hour and a depth of 75 meters; one located in the village of Pombo near a transhumance track, with a flow rate of 1.70m³ and a depth of 71 meters; the last borehole is located in the village of Sorro. Due to the precarious security situation in the commune of Sollé (Northern Region), UNDP was not able to build the boreholes planned for this commune.

Value Chains for Youth Employment

With the goal of identification of value chains and creation of jobs within the Burkina Faso border regions, ILO commissioned a study which entitled “Analysis of a value chain for vulnerable populations in the localities of Ouahigouya, Kaya, and Fada N’Gourma in Burkina Faso “. This study was carried out by a Burkinabe consultancy company and used as a basis to identify which sectors or industries the trainings ILO will offer in conjunction with this activity. The main job-creating value chains identified by the study in the three localities are potatoes, onions, tomatoes, bovine fatteners, and sheep fatteners.

The validation workshop for the study was held on the 24th and 25th June 2021 in Ouagadougou under the chairmanship of the Acting Executive Secretary of LGA, with the participation of the Director of the ILO Country Office in Abidjan and the Regional Coordinator of the LG Program based Dakar. Two officials from Mali and Niger in charge of the borders also took part in the workshop.

Through the efforts of these interventions, ILO was able to train 300 youth, 178 women and 122 men (200 trained in the production and conservation of potatoes, onions, and tomatoes, 100 were trained in bovine and sheep fattening.) The Joint Program also allowed for the acquisition of agricultural and breeding tools resulting in 300 kits donated to the participants of the training. The kits allowed for participants to engage in entrepreneurship and other income generating activities. The agricultural kits include wheelbarrows, picks, hoes, watering cans, picks, gloves, and rakes. The breeding kits include pans, buckets, waterers, feeders, brooms, and shovels.

Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship

With the goal of supporting entrepreneurship and cooperative development service providers, ILO was able to train 19 trainers of trainers (TOT) in entrepreneurship using the ILO Think Coop and Start Coop tools. The TOT participants include from four NGOs, the ministry of agriculture, a consulting firm, and the ILO. The training titled, “TinTua”, was the first training of its kind held in Burkina Faso thus this cohort was the first to benefit. A report was produced documenting the implementation of this activity. Following the completion of the training of trainers referenced above, using the ILO GERME module, the trainers, were able to transfer their skills to 300 youth (178 women and 122 men) in entrepreneurship, financial education, and credit.

Promoting Youth Vocational Training

ILO also commissioned a diagnostic study to identify and implement short-term vocational training opportunities for 300 youth. The study entitled: “Diagnostic study of short-term vocational opportunities in the localities of in Ouahigouya, Kaya and Fada N’Gourma” was carried out by Burkinabé consulting firm, ICI Partners. At the completion of the study, ILO organized a validation workshop for the report. Several needs for short-term vocational training were identified by the study, such as market gardening, livestock breeding, e-commerce, health and safety at work, marketing, etc.

Selection of a consulting firm called Raph Consulting to train 300 young people in occupational health and safety in the localities of Ouahigouya, Kaya and Fada N’Gourma. Production of a report on the training of 300 young people in health and safety at work in the localities of Ouahigouya, Kaya and Fada N’Gourma.

Green Job Creation

Support for income generation through immediate employment for marginalized youth through small-scale infrastructure works in high-potential economic sectors, following the labor-intensive approach and using environmentally friendly technologies (green job creation).

Realization of the study entitled: “Mission of identification of green works based on local technologies with high intensity of workmanship in the localities of Ouahigouya, Kaya and Fada N’Gourma”. The study was conducted by CGS Consulting. After the study, ILO led the organization of a validation workshop in which the recommendations from the report was discussed. The report recommended the following:

- The development of 11 ha of degraded land using half-moons, Zai and stone cordons, in the village of Songodin, in the commune of Boussouma, North Central Region (locality of Kaya).
- The development of about 20 ha of degraded areas, using filtering dikes and stone bunds in the villages of Sambtenga and Bogoya, in the commune of Ouahigouya;
- The recovery of 11 ha of glacié, using a combination of stone barriers and half-moons, in the village of Pintiagou, in the commune of Liptougou, Eastern Region (locality of Fada N’Gourma).

After consultation, the development of degraded areas selected to work in the localities of Ouahigouya and Boussouma. The locality of Fada N’Gourma was not accessible due to insecurity. CGS Consulting and two NGOs, Alliance Technique d’Appui au Développement (ATAD), and Fédération Nationale des Groupements Naam (FNGN) were recruited to implement the activities and monitor quality control.





Transversal Skills for Women

UNESCO, at the local and cross-border level, carried out an activity of designing and implementing a training to develop the key transversal skills of women and vulnerable young people. For security reasons, and in agreement with LGA, UNESCO and ILO it was decided to carry out activities in the localities of Kaya, Ouahigouya, and Fada N'gourma (Burkina Faso). Several results were achieved from this activity, including, the production of a report on the identified key transversal competences (CTCs), the drafting of a CTC identification guide, the development of four training modules on CTCs (entrepreneurial, organizational, communication, and digital skills), the production of a certification framework for the developed CTC modules was also produced, the training of 160 women and youth on the development of CTCs, the capacity building of 40 women and youth in training of trainers to duplicate training on the development of CTCs in LG. These results have been achieved through a synergy of actions with the ILO and LGA.

In addition, due to the health situation related to covid-19 and the upsurge in armed attacks in the cross-border region, it seemed reasonable to develop a digital e-learning platform (<http://prog-snu-alg.org/>) to enable more women and youth from the LG cross-border areas to develop their transversal skills for the labor market. However, the resurgence of several variants of Covid-19 and the insecurity related to armed attacks in localities close to the areas of intervention have hampered the implementation of certain activities. Also, it was not easy to coordinate and remotely monitor the planned activities.

The main lesson learned from the implementation of face-to-face training activities concerns the continuity of training in times of crisis. Indeed, the realities on the ground show that digitalization can be a key element of resilience for the training of women and young people at LGA. In addition, the strengthening of communication between stakeholders

and the synergy of actions towards beneficiaries; effectively addressing the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and climate change can have a significant impact on the community and build its resilience.

Mapping of Schools

UNESCO is supporting the LGA with conducting an inventory of schools and a regional study on the status of educational institutions that focus on non-formal education, the three Liptako Gourma countries of Burkina Faso Mali and Niger. Preliminary assessment report was duly discussed with the local government authorities of the three border country border areas. Following this, the scope of the study was revised to consider 2 municipalities per country. Mopti and Bandiagara in Mali; Dori and Fada N'gourma in Burkina Faso; Tera and Ayorou in Niger. Subsequently a consulting company is being recruited to lead and bring this initiative to fruition. The outcome of the inventory study will inform the design and roll out of non-formal education initiative to promote functional literacy, TVET and vocational training especially for young girls and youth. This will include working with traditional institutions such as Madrasses and mosques.

Temporary Learning Establishments

In collaboration with the Teaching Academies of Mopti and Douentza, UNICEF facilitated the construction of 40 Temporary Learning Establishments (TLEs), including 15 in the Douentza Circle, 15 in the Koro Circle and 10 in the Mopti Circle as well as their bench-table equipment. UNICEF also was tasked with the recruitment and training of 40 volunteer teachers in the Safe Schools Approach. The TLEs allowed 1538 children, including 791 girls, access to school. Communities and schools have been heavily involved in the implementation of activities, both in deciding the locations of the sites and for the mobilization of community co-payment, thus ensuring community ownership.

Communities say they are happy to have benefited from the TLEs, which have made it possible to provide a secure learning area for displaced students and to relieve the congestion of the preexisting host schools. However, communities are asked to constantly monitor these TDEs so that they are sustainable and profitable.

Tackling Acute Malnutrition in Niger

In Niger, the geographic area of the program is divided between the regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua: for the region of Tillabéri, it is the departments/communes of Ayorou, Banibangou, Abala, Ouallam, Tillabéri, Say, Torodi, Téra, Gotheye, Bankilaré and for the region of Tahoua, the communes of Tassara and Tillia. In terms of the nutritional situation in the zone, the acute malnutrition rates in 2019 were 8% in Tillabéri and 13.3% in Tahoua; in 2020, 9% in Tillabéri and 13.7% in Tahoua and in 2021, 9% in Tillabéri and 13.2% in Tahoua.

UNICEF aimed to cover 20% of the needs for the management of acute malnutrition in children under 5 years old in the project area. Given the available funding and to maximize the impact. Within the framework of this project UNICEF concentrated the contribution of the joint program in the intervention zones of the other partners (of the project and use the funds of the joint program to acquire the main input for the treatment of severe malnutrition (RUTF) ready-to-use therapeutic food.)

In 2021, the partners of the Nutrition technical group estimate that the annual target of expected cases of severe acute malnutrition in the joint program area to be 19,530 cases. That same year, UNICEF Niger was able to contribute to the care of 24,747 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (11,903 girls and 12,844 boys), 52% of whom (i.e., 13,053 children, including 6,253 girls and 6,800 boys) have been cared for thanks to the support of the joint program. Over the reporting period, the performance indicators (92% cured; 2% deceased) are in line with SPHERE standards (Cured >75%; Death < 3% and Dropout<15%). The contribution allowed for the purchase of ready-to-use therapeutic food (5,964 cartons), all other aspects of management including essential pharmaceuticals drugs, program monitoring, and supplies were covered by internal resources.



OUTPUT 6:

Output 6: Local authorities and communities receive logistical support and training to cope with environmental shocks and climate change

04 Results Related to JP Outcome Area 6: Resilience to climate change, scarcity reduction and natural resource management strengthened

The output 6 sought both to address the region's challenges in natural resource management and disaster risk reduction and recovery planning by improving the knowledge of communities and local authorities. Targeted activities include training sessions on sustainable land management, especially protected areas, biodiversity conservation and sustainable water management; and promote monitoring and management of transboundary areas using mobile phones and other applications. Also includes Knowledge products will be created to analyse the impact of climate change, the vulnerability of communities and the ecosystem in the intervention areas as well as a better process for capturing climate change.

Results contributing to the achievement of Outcome Area 4 were attained through the collaboration of UNDP and UNESCO with support from LGA. The main results achieved so far are as follows:

Environmental Protection and Conflict Management Related to Natural Resources

UNDP in Burkina Faso provided social cohesion and conflict management training in the areas of natural resource management to 67 women and 17 youth in Tibabé; and 57 women in Thiou. The training allowed the beneficiaries to familiarize themselves with national policies governing natural resource management, conservation and use in Burkina Faso. Following the training the women and youth beneficiaries were introduced to the community and traditional leaders as volunteers to mediate NRM related conflicts in their respective communities. So far, the efforts of the volunteer mediators have resulted in relative calm in the communities with no clashes recorded especially between farmers and herders. The training was delivered by sociologists and experts of livestock, agriculture, and the environment. The relative calm in farmer-herder clashes have also enabled the women and youth involved in animal husbandry and vegetable farming livelihood activities to thrive.

From the 11th to 13th November 2021 and the 15th to 17th November 2021, UNESCO supported a capacity building workshop for women and youth in the localities of Dori and Seytanga in Burkina Faso and Tillabéry in Niger on monitoring the effects of climate change and governance of natural resources through the creation of a mobile application for the region. UNESCO supported women and youth as key actors to be counted on in the promotion of environmental protection, peace, and security in Liptako Gourma. This reinforcement activity implemented with the ONG RECAC in Niger and La Voix Du Paysan in Burkina Faso made it possible to mobilize 30 participants from the commune of Seytenga and Dori in Burkina Faso and 30 participants from the commune of Tillabéry in Niger. However, the formation of Burkina Faso which was initially scheduled in the commune of Dori was relocated for security reasons.

The methodology of this training was based on a constructive dialogue on feedback. Initially, the training focused on knowledge on sustainable environmental management and environmental monitoring indicators in the regions of Seytenga and Tillabéry. To accommodate the digital age, the consultant also identified a georeferencing and digitization application (SW MAP) to allow participants to monitor environmental indicators within their community. The IT Expert trained the participants about the stages of development of a mobile application. The participants were able to make their first introduction to the development of mobile applications. At the end of this training, participants saw their capacities strengthened on the themes developed and were able to develop two mobile applications per country that were put in competition to reward the best mobile application by country.





Assessing the Collective Impact of the Joint Programme

From its conception, the underpinning principle of the JP was that it should be a platform for UN agencies, under the leadership of the LGA, to jointly undertake activities that would contribute to the four outcome areas and six outputs of the programme. It was expected that by pooling technical expertise, capacity and resources, this approach would pave the way towards achieving lasting impact in an effective and efficient manner. The current JP implementation approach provides opportunities for achieving collective results through three dimensions.

The first dimension relates to geographic spill over effects. These occur when JP agencies implement activities in separate locations (sometimes across borders) that have deep socio-economic or cultural ties, are located on a strategic trade route, or find themselves facing common challenges such as communal conflicts, climate change and migration. These activities not only impact populations in the direct intervention sites, but they also benefit communities in the neighbouring areas due to the regional or cross-border linkages between the locations. These spill over effects were enabled by the deliberate design and implementation of activities along adjoining geographical axis, notably Tillaberi (Niger), Thiou, Tetabi linking Kaya (Burkina) regional markets for dairy and agribusiness products from women and youth cooperatives established through the JP. Further the interaction and cooperation of women and youth population in the agribusiness market and trade has the potential to foster social cohesion and peace among communities along the axis of the trade route. This aspect needs to be properly analysed through empirical study for further lessons.

The second dimension of the JP collective approach relates to thematic complementarity. This is occurring albeit through limited conduct of joint activities of leveraging their respective areas of technical expertise to contribute to a joint output/outcome. This is a fundamental principle that underpins the JP design –

acknowledging the fact that the challenges faced by communities in the Liptako Gourma region are too complex, multi-dimensional and interconnected for the UN agencies to continue to implement compartmentalized, siloed projects in their mandated areas, and that they should rather work in concert – the JP was intended to be a mechanism to operationalise this thinking. An example lending credence to this assertion is the collaboration of OHCHR, UNODC and UNESCO in delivering related human rights, violent extremism and peace education activities.

Indeed, the success hinged on OHCHR leadership in conjunction with UNODC and UNESCO placed the implementation of joint activities at the heart of their ongoing activities. This was done through ensuring Human rights values were centrally integrated in the joint analysis with UNODC and UNESCO, for defining the challenges identified in the region, offers an ideal space for collaboration. Thus, planned, and ongoing activities are being implemented in joint fashion in a logic of complementarity and synergy of interventions but also capitalization of results that can strengthen the overall action of the United Nations and its partners of the JP for the Liptako Gourma region. Basing on this approach, OHCHR, have so far jointly organized also with OCHA the implementation of activities on civil-military coordination; and are now working to implement joint activities with UNODC and UNESCO particularly on information and sensitization of local elected officials, administrative authorities and the population, on human rights and the practice of cross-border cooperation for better social cohesion; access to justice and the means of recourse available to the populations, especially the most vulnerable. The mobilization of the same actors and the harmonization and complementarity of the approaches on the same perimeters of intervention, make it possible to ensure a coherent approach with the partners on the ground, to support the commitment required for results generating a positive change felt by the populations.

The third dimension of the JP collective approach relates to cumulative (investment) impact. The JP was designed to builds on programmes and projects that were or are still being implemented in the Liptako Gourma region, and its results will influence policy and programming decisions in the

years to come. In many ways, the JP has already demonstrated its multiplier effect and has started to catalyse a growing appetite on the part of donors and development partners to shift to a regional approach, as seen in the funds mobilized from Japan for the regional Trade for Peace project (2M USD, which was inspired by the JP), as well as from South Korea (1 M USD) to reinforce the JP outcomes and outputs.

Though the JP have made modest progress in various ways in support of the communities of the Liptako Gourma region through strengthening capacities, promoting access to justice, peacebuilding, preventing crisis, strengthening fragile peace in the region, promoting jobs and livelihoods, improving food security, access to water, agribusiness and contributing natural resources management, climate adaptation and policy. This cannot be over-emphasised.

Nonetheless, the power of collective delivery must be reinforced, consolidated, and consistently applied throughout implementation. Specifically, and inter alia, this requires strengthening the core principles of JP which are: joint analysis, point planning, targeting, geographical concentration, joint monitoring, missions, collation of lessons and feedback loops from communities, common sharing of knowledge, synergies, complementarity, coherence and strong coordination, common ownership of results and impacts. These elements have not been consistently applied through the course of the JP implementation. Among the key reasons why not only included the security challenges and covid-19 impacts which meant that implementing partners could not physically plan and engage in activities jointly and at the same time as required. But also, the inherent ‘lack of coordination’ tendencies of UN agencies themselves. This inertia has been an age-old nature of the UN which inspired the reforms and for which the JP sought to address in the Sahel region in support of UNISS implementation. Recognizing this, JP implementing partners engaged in a process in November 2021 to course correct, undertook a midterm review of lessons and challenges in order to re-set the ‘original’ integrity of the JP to achieve results more impactful than the sum of the parts of results individually achieved by implementing agencies.

Course Correction to Strengthen the Joint Programme Implementation

COURSE CORRECTION

From the onset, it was recognized that the implementation of activities on the field would face challenges owing to the security situation in the targeted areas of implementation. The lack of strong data on baseline parameters to underpin the results framework was also identified as an element that needs consideration to fix during implementation. Indeed, these obstacles coupled with the un-anticipated impacts of Covid-19 were encountered in the field of implementation, which necessitated several actions to advance the course of the programme.

Firstly, implementing partners meeting was held in November 17-19, 2020 in Bamako with specific objectives to (i) review the planned areas of intervention for program implementation (2018/19-2020) and assess the capacity of partners to carry out activities despite security concerns in certain areas; (ii) review and assess the progress made in the activities of the integrated work plan for the implementation of the program for the year 2020 and discuss the activities planned for 2021 (iii) identify and address challenges that hinder progress in implementation. A key outcome of the meeting was the recommendation for all implementing partners to develop and immediately implement an accelerated action plans for all activities to fast track delivery. This included finding innovative ways to circumvent security challenges, and covid-19 obstacles (in keeping with duty of care and national protocols) to advance the causes of implementation of activities. This recommendation was fully implemented by implementing partners, especially using responsible local partners already operating in high-risk security as well as online platforms (in the cases of vocational trainings). This

has resulted in the current programme delivery of 57% compared with only 17% in November 2020.

Secondly, the recognition of the need to take immediate steps to undertake a thorough course correction process to fix elements of the joint programme essence which are essential to optimising results as well as strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of the envisaged joint UN agencies collective impacts. These elements include updated results and resources framework, joint analysis to inform ongoing implementation as well as annual work plans based on commissioned research activities built into the joint programme, joint work planning, joint mission planning, strengthened coordination for effective synergies and coherence, stronger M&E framework including action research and feed back loops from beneficiaries to strengthen results and impacts. To do this effectively, the coordinating agency (UNDP) commissioned a mid term review to examine implementation in the light of the course correction elements, identify areas of improvements and to determine ameliorating actions for improved results. The mid term review culminated in a strategic retreat in November 2021 followed by a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in January 2022, staying optimistic that the issues encountered could be course corrected in the final year of the program. The outcomes of the workshop led to identifying indicators and methods of data collection. Although logistics and capacity challenges remain to fulfil these data requirements, efforts are being made to adequately measure and quantify progress and gauge success of the activities being implemented beyond just stating whether the activity was completed or not.



Summary of Recommendations from the Mid-Term Review

- 01 Organisational Support and Regularizing Adaptive Management Practices:** The JP has already adopted many adaptive management practices as a means to overcome the challenges it faces in project implementation. This ability for each of the implementors to innovate and respond to the needs of the beneficiary is one of the main strengths of the JP. Going forward, these decisions need to be more clearly recorded and communicated to ensure coordination and accountability.
- 02 Establish Consolidated Data/Knowledge Collection and Sharing Process to strengthen joint Analysis and delivery as one:** The establishment of the common Results-Based Framework on a common digital platform accessible by all, along with each agency having their own file where program documents and reports can be shared was long overdue. Going forward the use of this common platform, along with the other digital coordination means such as the What's Up groups, will need to be continually socialized and utilized. Publishing all JP documents, particularly the research, will also be an important particularly as the project goes toward Phase 2.
- 03 Establish Common Approach to the M&E Process and Improve its Learning Feedback Loop:** The M&E process needs to become more robust. A common quantifiable baseline needs to be established. This material is available in the Vulnerability Report and needs to be populated against the index of the Results Based Matrix. Only by establishing a baseline and aligning it to the indicators will the extraction of reliable data be possible.
- 04 Focus on Completing Outstanding Projects and Ensure Completion and Integrity of Results Based Matrix:** While the majority of JP projects are completed or near completion, there was need to focus efforts on accelerating implementation of delayed activities.
- 05 Maintain Focus on Improving LGA Ownership and Capacity and Aligning Approach with National Development Priorities:** As with the Lake Chad Basin experience, enhancing the capacity of the LGA will be a long term and crucial process. Promoting the LGA in its leadership role, even if its current capacity is limited, will remain important. The LGA should ensure that local interests are reflected in the UN Programme and that cross-border concerns are incorporated in the design of activities and interventions. As such, it will be critical that going into Phase 2, the capacity building side of the project will need to be reviewed jointly with the LGA using the capacity assessment study that was recently conducted.
- 06 Strengthen Intra-JP Coordination and Strategic Oversight:** Coordination will continue to be a challenge given the number of actors and the complexity of the programme. However, the use of the digital platforms in combination with regular physical meetings in combination with leadership that coral's project implementors around common and achievable objectives will go a great distance to improving organisational coherence.
- 07 At a strategic level, the support of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel** with the support of the JP Secretariat and the Hub will be important in maintaining support among the UN country teams as well as agency senior management for the JP concept. This support will also be needed to diversify funding sources and in maintaining political support among the regional states.
- 08 Expand Programmatic Partnerships:** As the JP matures and expands so will its partnerships and ability to collaborate with organisations outside its immediate ecosystem. This will avoid duplication and increase complementary and synergies.

Actions So Far Taken to Course Correct

Succeeding from the MTR the following actions were taken immediately to undertake the course correction required to strengthen the JP, its integrity and the impacts of envisaged results as required.

- 01 MTR Review**
Organized a strategic retreat in November 2021 to discuss the MTR, reflect on its findings, agreed on course correction actions and key areas for improvement.
- 02 Results Framework**
Organized M&E and action learning retreat in December 2021 to update the Results Framework, baseline, organized into results groups, evaluate and compile lists of research studies aimed to inform continuous programming and work planning etc. Based on this, UNODC, OHCHR and UNESCO engaged to jointly analysed collective actions contributing to outputs 2 and 3 for synergies and complementarities.

The course correction is a continuous improvement process which is still in progress.

Programme Governance and Management

Detailed financial update

The multi-partner trust fund office (MPTFO) structure was used to manage funds for the JP. MPTFO was efficient in transferring all funds allocated to each participating UN agency (PUNs)-refer to fig 3 below. This ensured that activities were positioned with availability of funds at the onset of implementation; this was before Covid-19 kicked. Further, the fact that all agencies had the requisite allocated funds ensured that despite the impact of covid-19, PUNs were still able to implement activities in the field to the extent possible. Also, the ready availability of funds enabled the implementation of an accelerated action plan to fast track delivery at the opportune time (1st quarter of 2020) when the Covid-19 situation were somewhat put under control. Till date, the average delivery of the total allocated amount of \$8.3 million is about 52% although delivery is staggered depending on the PUN and its related domain of intervention. The status of delivery is set out below in fig 3.

Fig. 3: MPTFO will provide the detailed financial status as per the SAA Agreement.

Human Resource Capacity for Implementation

Staff report on the progress of the Joint Program to the Regional Coordination team based in Dakar, Senegal, and to their respective heads of office. The national coordination team shares information with the Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako-Gourma Region (LGA). Partners of the JP liaised with local NGOs to implement activities in the field as well as implementing directly in areas where possible. OHCHR is one such organization who opted for direct implementation of activities in the field. During 2021, the agency recruited two focal points in Niger and Burkina Faso. In Mali, as the OHCHR country office, the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was mobilized to support the regional office in the field. In addition, at the regional level in Dakar, a team has been set up to coordinate all activities to ensure harmonization of interventions in the three countries. This approach makes it possible to ensure that the strategic orientations at the global level are properly translated on the ground but also to understand the priority themes and concerns of the target populations.

Below is a table of positions financed under the JP:

Position	Function	Location	Funding %	Comments
Programme Manager	Overall management and coordination of the JP	Dakar Hub	100%	In place
Programme Associate	Overall support to the JP	Dakar Hub	100%	In place
M&E Specialist (IUNV)	M&E, monitoring and reporting	Dakar Hub	100%	In place
Finance Specialist (IUNV)	Financial management	Dakar Hub	100%	In place
Communications Associate	Support to LGA communications	LGA, Ouagadougou	100%	In place
Programme Coordinator (IUNV)	Programme coordination and M&E support to LGA	LGA, Ouagadougou	100%	Not recruited

Initial Capacity for the Setting Up of Implementation Support Unit (Office of Secretary General Special Coordinator for the Development of the Sahel-OSCDs)

The Joint Programme provided critical support to the implementation support unit (ISU) setting up during the transition towards the current Office of the Secretary General’s Special Coordination for Development in the Sahel (OSCDs). The support included: capacity for D1 (Head of office), P5 (Programme Coordinator) and operational activities for transitioning OSCDS from the previous Office of Special Adviser for the Sahel (OSAS). In addition to the critical usefulness of the capacity for the transition process, the support also helped maintain momentum and consolidate the achievements of OSAS as building blocks for the renewed OSCDS vision. In addition, by supporting with OSCDS with initial capacity, SIDA was repositioned as the most strategic partner for the UNISS programme implementation. And OSCDS is looking forward to further strengthening this partnership into the future.

M&E and Reporting

The Joint Program project document stipulates specific reporting requirements, namely the submission of quarterly progress reports, annual reports and the final report. So far, these reports could not be submitted with the frequency initially agreed - the programme team submitted a draft progress report in November 2021 ahead of the Strategic retreat held in Saly, Senegal in the same month. At the time of writing (May 2022), the regional coordination team is compiling reports from each agency into a consolidated report (the present report) for the period between November 2019 to December 2021. The non-adherence to the reporting cycle can be attributed to agency in ability to dedicate resources for timely results reporting.

The project document also requires the development of a M&E plan at the start of the JP to establish indicators, baselines, and targets. But this has been lagging and therefore needs to be addressed immediately by ensuring that agencies provide dedicated M&E focal points to complete this task. Overall, the monitoring and evaluation aspects of the JP have encountered challenges related to accessibility (mainly due to insecurity in the target areas) and capacity. With regards to the latter, each agency should have monitoring and evaluation staff whose

specific duty should be to ensure the quality of data and proper documentation of program impact at various levels. However, the initial set-up of the agencies did not always allow adequate human resources to be allocated to this important element of programme management. Recognising the urgent need to strengthen the basic M&E capacities of the programme teams (at regional and country levels) to ensure more systematic data identification, collection, analysis and application, agencies assigned focal points in January 2022 who are now overseeing their agencies’ data collection for activities and ensure the documentation is disseminated with the regional team and other program partners.

Now agency focal points have been designated, the M&E lead in the coordination team is working with them to address the various weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation plan. One of the main points to be discussed at the workshop is the role of LGA to design a structured framework for knowledge management as well as its capacity to manage its own data collection in the future. The LGA should ideally be capacitated to design a data collection strategy which can include surveys before training the sessions, perception studies by beneficiaries and impact tracking after completion, but needs to be adapted to suit the needs and context of each implementation activity. Data collection must be accompanied by the systematic production and sharing of knowledge, both on expertise gained and on challenges to consider in similar situations. The sharing must occur both among JP partners and with targeted communities.

To strengthen the agencies’ data collection and knowledge sharing, UN agencies should leverage national data collection and knowledge production from implementing partners. All data and knowledge collected must converge into a harmonised and shared database. The database will aid in identifying where there has been good progress in the field of action of the JP. Factors that enabled successful implementation can be identified and incorporated in the design of future projects. This new centralised knowledge management strategy will also inform a standardised set of M&E procedures, organised thematically and oriented toward the refining of the JP proof of concept. The new standardised M&E system will have adaptable indicators to align with the JP’s integrated approach. UNDP Dakar Hub is currently collaborating with development partners, CSOs and private sector in co-designing this platform using own resources.

Communications

Thus far, the JP has lacked a coherent communication strategy, in part due to the fact that the regional coordination team has had to rely on agencies and country offices to provide material on an ad hoc basis, as and when activities took place. To take a more proactive approach to communications, the Joint Program regional coordination team has currently developed a communication strategy for the remainder of the implementation period. This will include specific deliverables to elevate the voices of the Liptako Gourma communities whom the JP has supported and demonstrate the tangible impact of the programme. These deliverables will include video clips, beneficiary portraits, and other creative ways to shine a light on some of the positive changes brought about by the JP. Most importantly, communication of JP results will centre around how agencies have joined forces on the ground to deliver tangible impact, in keeping with the spirit of the programme.

The target audience of external communication will be identified to tailor the communication approach. For example, the key information that potential new donors seek to learn from, may differ from the information that beneficiaries are looking to learn. For each category of the identified target audience, a communication strategy outlining the platforms to be used, the partnerships to be leveraged, the key information to be shared, and the types of content to be shared (e.g., videos and newspaper report may be more impactful for beneficiaries, but donors may prefer fact sheets that consolidate the impact of an ongoing initiative). Importantly, an effective communications strategy must align with the beneficiary feedback loops. Beneficiaries need to be able to participate in the ongoing conversation about the program.

Needless to say, the absence of a communications action plan in no way means the absence of concrete results that can already be reported. In addition to the narrative in the results section, some human-centred stories and photos from the field have been annexed to this report.

Coordination / integration

The JP project document outlines the regional and national mechanisms dedicated to the management and coordination of the programme. The Steering Committee is responsible for the overall supervision of the JP, providing direction and recommendations to ensure programme results are achieved as stipulated in the project document. The SC assumes a decision-making role including the power to propose changes to the JP interventions based on documents submitted by the Technical Committee. The TC is chaired by UNDP and

ensures timely implementation of activities as well as their coherence. It is also a forum to discuss challenges and discuss solutions. The project document also outlines the role of UNDP as “convening agent” who will be responsible for the overall coordination of the programme, LGA-led activities, organising joint field missions, and reporting and M&E at the aggregate level.

The first took place at the inception of the JP in Burkina (October 2018), the second after Covid-19 in took place in Niamey, Niger in July 2021; the third is now planned for Mali-Bamako in May 2022. The recommendation and follow up status of the last COPIL is attached as Annex 1 to the report. A summary of the recommendations of 3rd COPIL is attached as Annex 2.

To date, TC meetings have taken place on a rather ad hoc basis, but largely keeping to the agreed monthly frequency. These meetings have helped coordinate activities between agencies and find synergies, exchange information and discuss collective solutions. Some TC meetings have taken place online, in light of efficiency considerations and the COVID-19 pandemic. Going forward, broader participation of TC members (as indicated in the project document) should be sought.

As chair of the Steering Committee, the Liptako Gourma Authority (LGA, led by its Executive Secretary) must spearhead the coordination and leadership of the program. As the principal intergovernmental organisation in the region, the LGA is best placed to coordinate national efforts to tackle protracted conflict, displacement challenges, effects of climate change and other risks. The JP was conceived to support the role of the LGA given its institutional capacity issues. The idea is to strengthen LGA capacities for eventual independent coordination and implementation of programme activities. Since then, UNDP has provided capacity support to LGA in various ways including through vehicles, equipment, GIS and technical advisory. Although UNDP felt that there is need for full capacity for programme coordination and M&E to be deployed along side LGA Principal coordinator, LGA believes otherwise and prefers to leverage internal capacities instead. This situation is not effective for coordinating the LGA programmes and therefore, a full programme coordination and M&E capacity is still recommended. The LGA and the JP agencies (led by UNDP who is responsible for the management of funds allocated to LGA) have been developing a common and shared definition of coordination that underpin the collaboration between the two. A coordination unit housed within the LGA, aligned to its existing structure as a complement, with a focal point from each country can enable cross-border coordination. The focal points function as representatives of national priorities and can shape the coordination and collaboration across borders. The coordination unit will be tasked with aligning ongoing UN initiatives with the LGA Strategic Plan. Coordination systems or channels must be standardised and shared among agencies and all other stakeholders. Ongoing coordination between focal points is only the first step. The management teams of each agency need to be provided with up-to-date information on the implementation of the JP. This enables the participation of the management teams in coordination efforts.

Cross-border projects require coordination to ensure that interventions are impactful. If stakeholders design and implement activities solely based on national borders, it undermines the ability for implementation teams to respond to dynamics emerging throughout the region. Coordination across borders facilitates responsiveness to changing dynamics. Cross-border coordination is necessary among UN agencies, between UN agencies and their local partners and between the UN agencies and the LGA to increase the likelihood of effective cross-border implementation.

On internal communication, knowledge management and collaboration in the field are undermined by a lack of effective communication between UN agencies, local partners, and the LGA, but also between implementation and management levels, and communication with senior level (donors, UN senior leaders, ministries). A communication strategy will need to be developed and must specify information that must be shared consistently with different stakeholders. This supports regional level tracking and will align with other recommendations to develop a clear reporting process based on the M&E framework.

Security and accessibility

Initially, the communes of Thiou (Northern Region) and Titabé (Sahel Region) were selected as areas of intervention. These municipalities are included in the final version of the Joint Program document. In view of the insecurity prevailing in these two localities at the time, the Government of Burkina Faso, through the Minister in charge of Territorial Administration, sent a letter in October 2020 to the Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako Gourma region for the ILO and UNESCO to intervene in the northern regions (Ouahigouya), North-Central (Kaya) and East (Fada N’Gourma). It was also recommended at the inception of the program that the

East Region of Burkina Faso would not be accessible to UN organizations due to the rising sporadic insecurity in the region. Considering the fluctuating security dimension, to strong collaboration with the defense and security forces of the three member countries and the use of local expertise were used to implement activities in conflict sensitive areas.

Agencies reported that partnerships with local NGOs are essential in overcoming the security challenges to implementation. Local NGOs such as the those in the People’s Coalition for the Sahel, have knowledge and experience in implementing despite the changing dynamics of the Liptako Gourma region. In addition, they may have established communication with local leaders that allows NGOs to continue to implement their efforts regardless of conflict dynamics. Such local partnerships are essential and allows the UN to benefit from local expertise.

The COVID-19 pandemic was the second key challenge. It slowed down interventions and necessitated a reconfiguration of implementation strategies including an accelerated implementation plan approved by the steering committee in January 2021. The responses of the UN agencies in the context of this crisis were effective and provided transferable best practices where risk mitigation is needed.





Lessons Learned

Overall, the JP is ambitious. It is the first of its kind implemented under the auspices of the UNISS with eight (8), UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and ECA working regionally across three countries-Burkina, Mali and Niger. Also, given the number of agencies involved, the coordination challenges of the UN agencies are daunting. And so, it is for ALG for the overall realisation of the ultimate success of the JP. A key area of effectiveness of the JP was its design to maximize impacts through a delineation of geographical areas of intervention at the level of communes to focus to the joint interventions of UN agencies. However, for better targeting and effectiveness of results, UN should have operationalized this through joint analysis (rather than individual analysis) to select targeted communes to achieve collective outcomes. This need to be corrected for continuous improvements in the implementation of AWP 2022.

In its approach, the success of implementation drew from the definition of joint collective outcomes at the beginning, joint analysis, joint planning, concentrating efforts at delineated geographical intervention zones and joint ownership of results by community beneficiaries, local authority, ALG and the UN implementing agencies. This approach has the potential to benefit from the implementation of humanitarian-development nexus in the field, which can be leveraged across border communities for contributing towards achieving regional development impacts.

So far, the application of the joint collective approach has been more successful in Mali circle than in Burkina and Niger. In Mali notably the geographical zones of Mopti, Koro and Douentza implementing UN agencies are able to coordinate their actions in the field through a systematic process of joint analysis, planning and allocation of division of labour to enforce synergies and coherence of results. The success of this is arguably based on the establishment of an active coordination structure headed by a Nexus field manager and respective Mayoral offices. This underpinned by a consolidated action plan developed with the local authorities which are followed consistently; and enhanced through security access to the field with the help of MINUSMA forces. Thus, the fundamental difference to the success of Mali's joint approach is the existences of a well-functioning coordination structure supported by the local authorities and enhanced by the consistent application of action plans developed on the basis of division of labor. This lesson will be applied to Burkina and Niger to strengthen the JP collective approaches in those circles of the Liptako Gourma region.

The mobilization of the same actors and the harmonization and complementarity of the approaches on the same perimeters of intervention, make it possible to ensure a coherent approach with the partners on the ground, to support the commitment required for results generating a positive change felt by the populations.

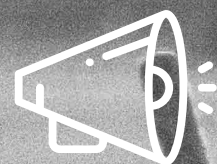
Some implementation lessons learned for continuous improvements towards the eventual completion of the phase one of the JP include the following:

- Need to reinforce synergies, coordination at field level to strengthen results and impacts for beneficiaries.
- Need to strengthen the visibility of the JP including with local authority and communities.
- Need to strengthen coordination between local authorities, other partners in the field with UN agencies under LGA leadership. To this end it was proposed to establish coordination platforms in each country.
- Need to strengthen joint monitoring, planning and analysis to reinforce the integrity of the JP to optimize coherence, synergies and complementarity of implementing agencies.
- Need to broaden partnership for implementation of activities including with Civil Society and other Community Based Organizations to reinforce synergies of results and impacts of similar activities on behalf of beneficiary communities.
- For better results, agencies must undertake joint analysis even at the local/ community level of activities to allow better targeting, complementarities, and synergies. Ideally, this should occur at same selected sites for impacts.
- ALG secretariat capacity need to be strengthened in term of human resources to support programme coordination, centrality of data collection, knowledge management and analysis to permit the sustainability of these knowledge products as well as help results based decision making of local LGA authorities.
- To increase the numbers of beneficiaries, find ways to digitally leverage training and cross-cutting skills development via ICTs such as android phones and tablets. This approach to knowledge sharing and skills development will help limit the risks of community contamination of Covid-19 and exposure to armed conflict.
- Having focal points at the intervention communes would help facilitate the implementation of activities and allows the implementation of activities to continue even if the zone is inaccessible.
- At the field level, it is important to focus on community acceptance to facilitate the implementation of activities. The communities are the first to protect the implementing actors if they are involved in the project and take ownership of it.
- Need to always solicit the contribution and support of partners (NGOs, technical services) working in the areas of social cohesion, peace, and living together to improve the quality of interventions in the field.
- Involving administrative, local, and customary authorities and representatives of technical services as stakeholders is a guarantee of ownership of interventions and the sustainability of achievements.

Prioritised Actions for 2022

Activity	Period (2022)					
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct+
Submission of the 2019-2021 Achievement Report						
Work session of partners on joint analysis of ongoing socio-economic, political, security and development studies (NB: taking into account studies, field research, recent studies published by ISS, OECD, etc. of the Sahel and Liptakogourma region). This will strengthen AWP 2022 for continuous improvement of implementation of the 2022 activities in the field.						
Finalize work plan for 2022. This includes ongoing, committed and Korean fund activities to strengthen existing results						
Deployment of a communication and visibility strategy to highlight and capitalize on the results obtained - at the community and regional levels						
Outcome evaluation - achievements, community impacts, lessons learned, OECD DAC requirements, etc.						
Preparation and submission of the draft 2022 achievement report						
COPIL meeting						
Submission of the final implementation report including the evaluation report (2019-2022)						
Planning Process for Phase 2						

Voices from Liptako-Gourma



“Information, if not well treated, can itself be a source of conflict and undermine social cohesion,” said **Mr. Ibrahim Sanou**, a journalist participating in a regional workshop organized by UNESCO with the NGO FAMEDEV in Mali as part of the fight against violent extremism and the promotion of social cohesion. As a beneficiary of the training, he said he was now able to “produce better content and work to mitigate the effects of community conflicts.

Mr. Abdoul Zoungrana, from Radio Djawoampo in Bogandé, known for its awareness programs on living together and promoting peace, insisted on the need for the media to “know how to choose and deal with the angles of information processing in times of crisis to be tools for the development of the region. This, in his view, is part of the notion of social responsibility of the journalist which was well discussed during the training. For these journalists, this initiative brings the practice of their profession back to the course of change, reminding them that their mission is not to settle conflicts, but to disseminate accurate and impartial information within the framework of good journalistic practice. This can often lead to the reduction of conflicts.

“I found this training very useful and relevant because it allowed me to acquire more knowledge about the environment, to define its components and to know its importance to determine the indicators for environmental monitoring. The tools

made available to us for the development of the application will be beneficial to my team and me so that we can develop an application that will allow us to do a more effective environmental monitoring.”
- **Testimony of Hamidou Djibo Salma** (student in economics at the A M University of Niamey/member of the AJSPD/ elected councillor for the commune of Dantchandou)

Madame HIEN née TRAORE Nida Blanche, Directrice Régionale de la Jeunesse, de la Promotion de l’Entrepreneuriat et de l’Emploi de la région du Centre-Nord (Kaya)

« Les formations développées par le BIT sont la bienvenue dans la région du Centre-Nord dans ce sens qu’elles ont permis aux jeunes d’apprendre beaucoup de choses à savoir les techniques de production et de conservation de la tomate et de l’oignon. Parmi les jeunes qui ont pris part à ces formations, il y avait des PDI (personnes déplacées internes) et vous savez que le Centre Nord est la deuxième région après le Sahel à abriter des PDI. C’est vraiment une bonne chose car les formations vont permettre aux jeunes de faire beaucoup de choses et même approcher d’autres structures qui peuvent les accompagner. Les formations développées répondent aux priorités du gouvernement dans la région du Centre – Nord car quand on prend la classification des créneaux

porteurs d’emploi, il y a l’agriculture et l’élevage. La plupart des jeunes formés vivent de l’agriculture et de l’élevage. Les formations sont capitales car elles permettent aux jeunes d’avoir des notions pour mieux parfaire ce qu’ils faisaient avant. Je suggère que de telles initiatives se multiplient dans la région du Centre-Nord. Quand je prends le répertoire des jeunes dans la région, les statistiques sont énormes. Les jeunes espèrent avoir un lendemain meilleur. Le plaidoyer que je fais est que des partenaires puissent se lancer dans la formation des jeunes. Suite aux attaques que le Centre – Nord connaît, on assiste à un accroissement des PDI. D’où la nécessité de multiplier de telles formations dans la région ».

« Je m’appelle Adjara Ouédraogo. Je suis au secteur 1 de Ouahigouya. J’ai appris comment produire la pomme de terre, comment conserver l’oignon, comment faire une pépinière. J’ai aussi appris comment me protéger des produits dangereux que l’on utilise dans les champs et comment éviter les maladies. On a aussi appris comment gérer notre argent, comment créer une coopérative. Je suis satisfaite des formations reçues. Les formations vont changer ma vie car avant je n’avais pas de connaissances. Après ces formations, je vais produire la pomme de terre ».



“

Madame Adjara Ouédraogo
résidant au secteur 1 de
Ouahigouya



“

M. Mounourou Tao, résidant au
secteur 1 de Ouahigouya

Results
Snapshot





United Nations Development Programme
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa
Point E, Complexe Citamil, Immeuble E
Dakar - Senegal

Connect with Us
f t i n y @UNDPWACA
www.undp.org/africa

© UNDP 2022

